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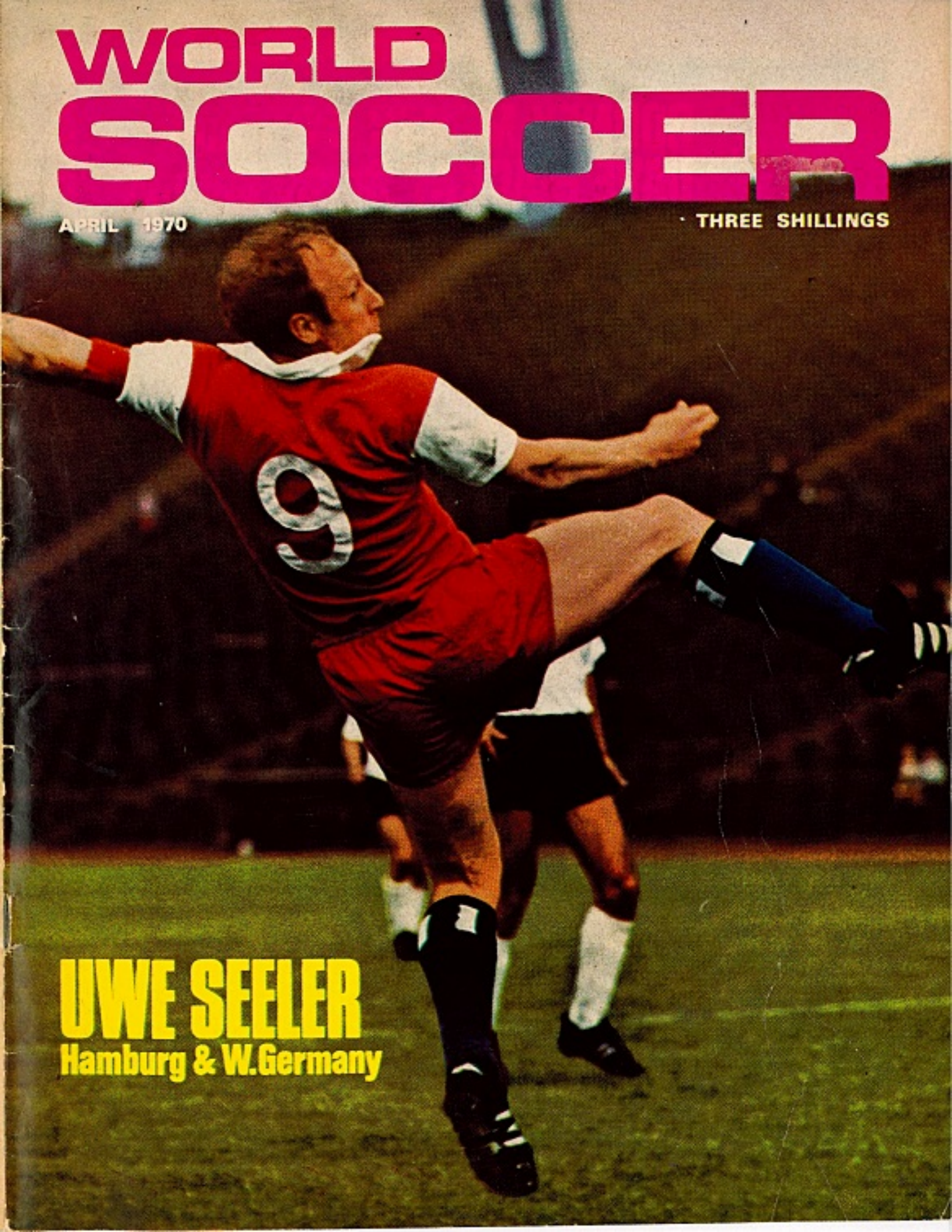

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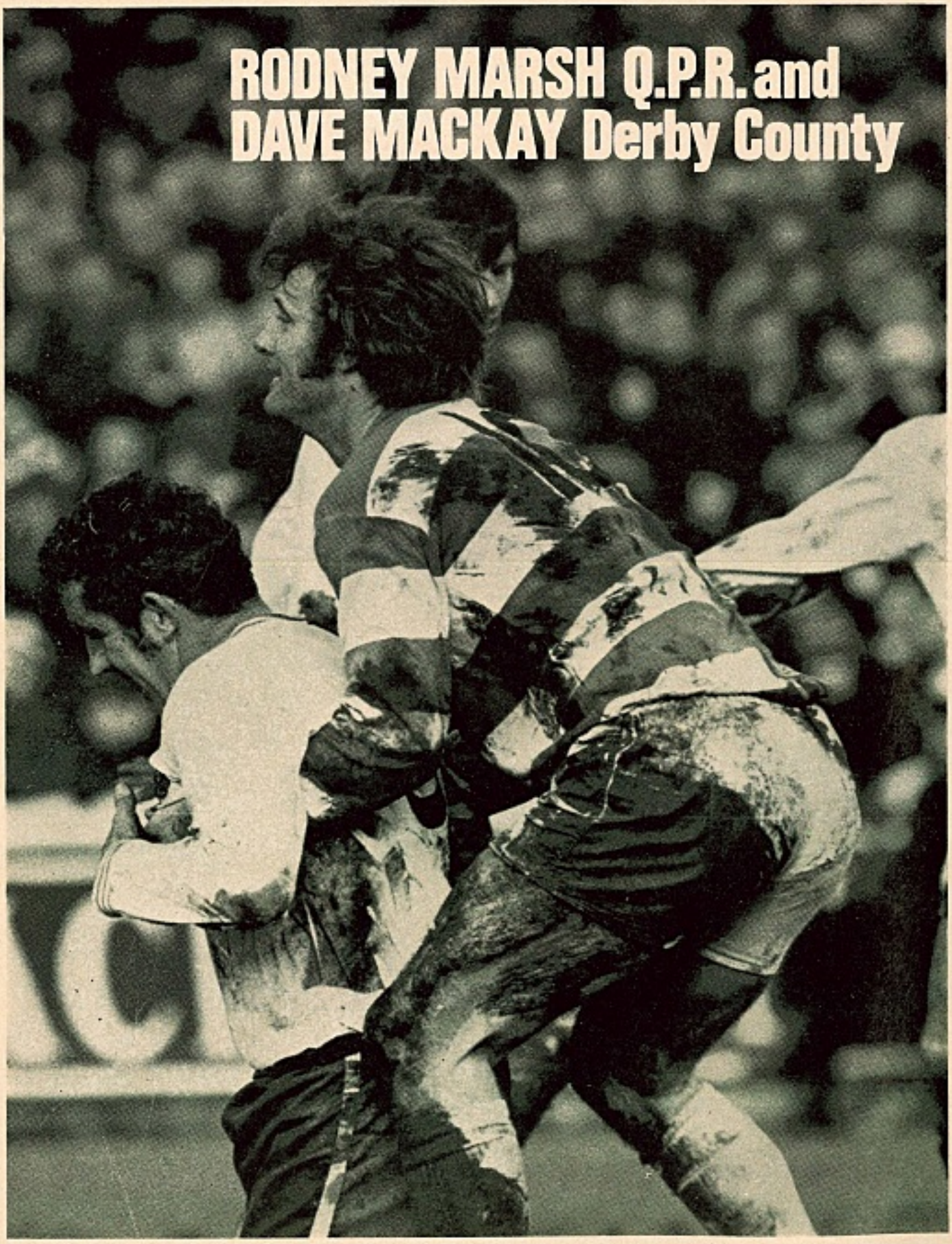
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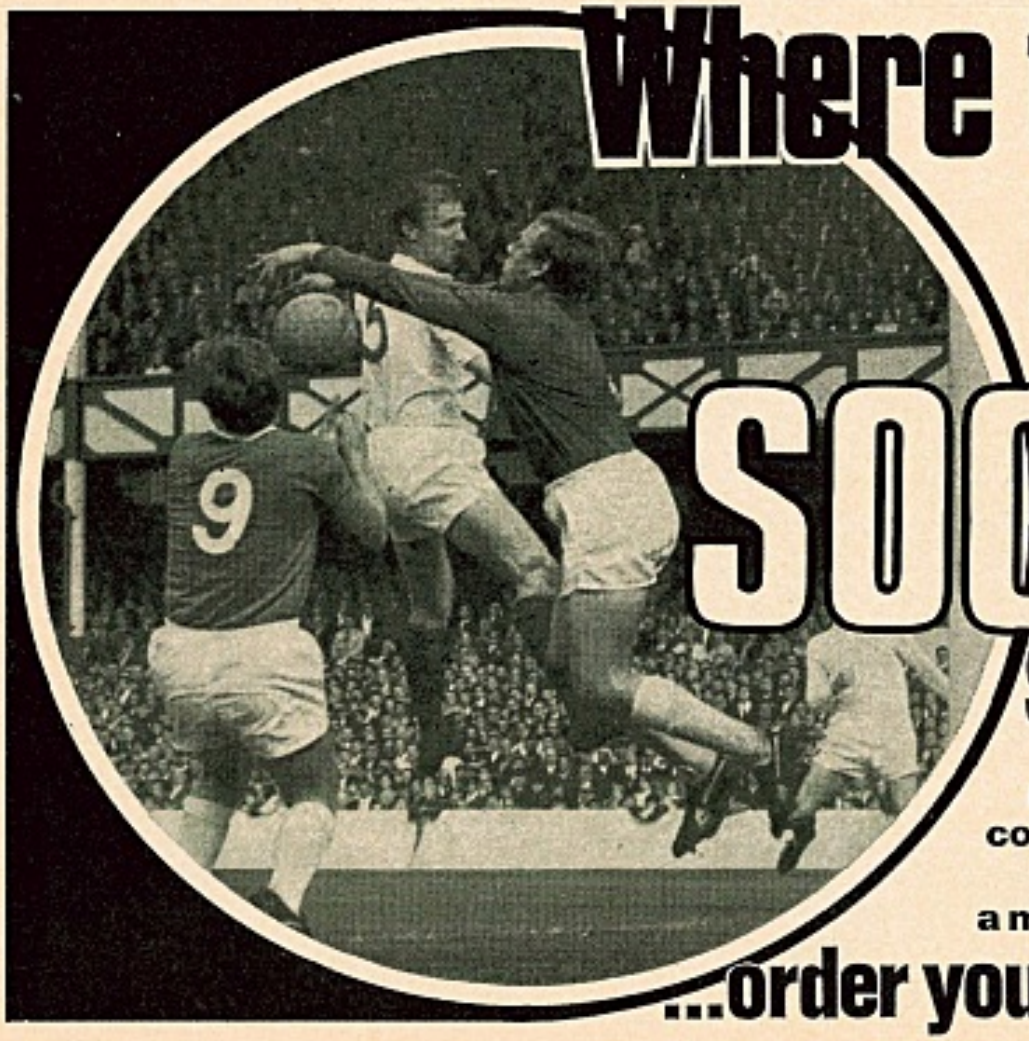

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FEBRUARY 4

MILAN: Inter Milan qualified for the Fairs Cup quarter-finals when they drew 1-1 with Barcelona here today for a 3-2 aggregate third round victory. The half-time score was 1-1. Boninsegna scored for Inter; Rexach for Barcelona. A previous second-leg match was abandoned last month because of fog with the Italian club 1-0 ahead.

SANTIAGO: Pelé was crowned here tonight with a 15,000 dollar (£6,250) gold and silver crown donated by Mexican fans. He then went on to score three goals and lead his club Santos to a 7-0 win over the Mexican team, America. The crown was placed on his head by leaders of the Mexican team as a symbol of Latin-American soccer unity. It bore the inscription: "Great in your humility, humble in your greatness." The crowd of 30,000 in the national stadium roared as the crown was placed on his head and the cheering continued for several minutes. The game was part of a six-club tournament including Dynamo of Zagreb, University of Chile, Catholic University and the local team, Colo Colo.

BELO HORIZONTE: Rumania's World Cup squad drew 1-1 last night with Internacional. Both goals were scored in the second half. Valdomiro gave Internacional the lead from the penalty spot in the 54th minute and Domide headed an equaliser 13 minutes later.

FEBRUARY 6

CARACAS: Botafogo beat Spartak Trnava in an exhibition game here tonight before 23,000 fans. The Czechs took a lead after 17 minutes through Adamec and retained their advantage until half-time. In the second half the Brazilians stormed back with an equaliser in the 60th minute from outside-left Cesar. Right-winger Humberto slotted home the winner five minutes from time.

BUENOS AIRES: Six people, including two members of the Argentine team Temperley, were killed and 40 injured today when two buses crashed head on 165 kms. (103 miles) south of here. Another member of the Second Division side, which was on its way to a match, later had his right leg amputated in hospital.

FEBRUARY 7

LIMA: Peru's World Cup squad beat the Bohemia club of Czechoslovakia 2-1 here last night after leading 1-0 at half-time. Sotil put Peru ahead after 29 minutes but Bohemia equalised a minute after the interval through an own-goal by Peru full-back Gonzalez. Cubillas netted the winner after 57 minutes.

FEBRUARY 8

HONG KONG: Czechoslovakia's Inter Bratislava beat Hong Kong 6-2 in a friendly match here today. Bratislava led 2-1 at the interval. Czech striker Krane, who is having a tremendous tour, smashed in four goals. Other scorers for Bratislava were Szikora and Levicky.

FEBRUARY 11

SEVILLE: Spain scored a surprise 2-0 win over West Germany in a friendly international here tonight. Inside-left Arieta scored both Spain's goals in the first half.

MEXICO CITY: Ignacio Trelles, dismissed from the job of trainer of Mexico last May, returned to duty with the squad yesterday as a "technical assessor". Trelles, Mexico's trainer for 11 years, was replaced in May after the team's unsuccessful European tour.

FEBRUARY 13

LIMA: Gornik of Poland drew 2-2 with Peru's World Cup squad after leading 2-0 until the last ten minutes. The Poles took command with goals by outside-left Lubanski but Peru bounced back in the closing stages when Zagarra and Cachito Ramirez netted.

FEBRUARY 14

LIMA: Russia and Peru drew 0-0 in an international here tonight. After the match Waldir Pereira "Didi", manager of the Peruvian squad, said he would resign if the team's scheduled European tour next April was abandoned. His threat followed a dispute within the Peruvian Football Federation over the three-week tour. Several members have insisted it would tire the team before the World Cup finals in Mexico. "There is a contract, and this cannot be cancelled. If the European tour does not materialise, I will resign my managership," Didi told newsmen.

FEBRUARY 15

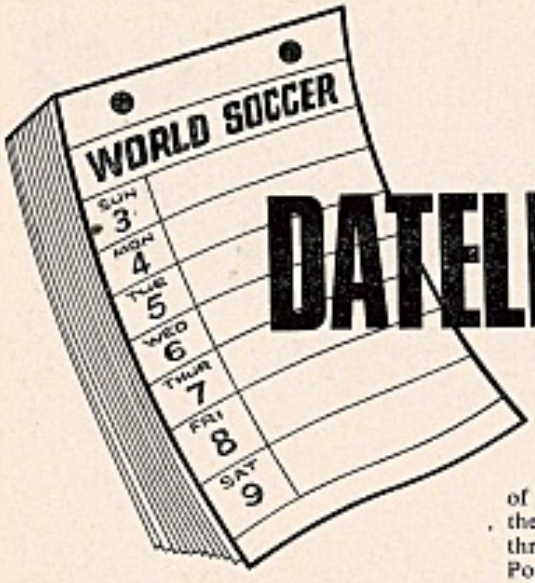
ROME: Helenio Herrera, Argentinian-born trainer of Roma, was back with his club today after successfully appealing against a 22-day suspension. Herrera was suspended on February 6 by the Disciplinary Committee of the Italian national league because of reported statements in a newspaper interview. He was quoted as saying that several points in the league championship had been stolen from Roma by biased referees. But yesterday the suspension was dropped. Herrera has denied making the remarks.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rumania's World Cup squad was beaten 4-1 by Rio club Flamengo here last night. Gomide scored first for Rumania with a header after 18 minutes. Flamengo equalised through Arilson and scored second-half goals through Doval, Dionisio.

FEBRUARY 16

RIO DE JANEIRO: Otto Gloria, former manager of Benfica, whose contract was terminated a week ago, is to take over as technical director of Brazilian club America. America director Lucio Lacombe said today the 52-year-old Brazilian would join the

Boninsegna scores for Inter Milan in their second leg Fairs Cup match against Barcelona. (UPI)



DATELINE DIARY

club by March 10. America officials would release no further details but sources close to the club said Gloria would receive a fee of about £7,500 and £458 a month. He would also be paid bonuses for wins and draws.

KHARTOUM: Sudan won the African Nations Cup here tonight when a second-minute goal by outside-left Hasabou gave them a 1-0 win over Ghana in the final. In the match for third and fourth places, the UAR beat Ivory Coast 3-1.

SANTIAGO: The soccer game was friendly but the lunch for the two teams afterwards turned into a brawl with knives and bottles ... and today all the players involved were either in hospital or jail. Altogether, eight people were injured, one seriously. The incident occurred when two local teams, Santa and Reina Maria, played in a Santiago suburb yesterday and later had lunch in the Santa clubhouse.

FEBRUARY 18

AMSTERDAM: Negotiations for the transfer of Dutch soccer star Johan Cruyff to Barcelona will begin immediately the ban on Spanish clubs importing foreign players is lifted. Mr.-Jaap Van Praag, President of Ajax, said tonight: "We know Cruyff wants to go to Barcelona and we will not stop him doing so if a transfer fee, which we will keep secret, is paid. If any Dutch footballer can go to Spain to earn his money Barcelona will have the first choice on Cruyff.

REGGIO CALABRIA: Italy and Poland drew 0-0 in an Under-21 international here tonight. About 20,000 spectators watched the match.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Centre-forward Toninho and half-back Scala were today dropped from Brazil's World Cup squad because of injuries. The team's technical committee, announcing the results of medical examinations last Friday, said Toninho had been ruled out because of chronic sinusitis and Scala by torn ligaments. Toninho has been replaced by Ze Carlos and Scala by Fontana.

LISBON: Benfica were tonight banned from using their stadium on the outskirts of Lisbon for eight home matches because their fans invaded the pitch during a match three weeks ago. The ban was imposed by Portugal's Football Association after a detailed investigation of the invasion by about 5,000 Benfica fans furious at the expulsion by the referee of two Benfica players during a first division match against Belenenses. The match was abandoned after 42 minutes with the score 0-0.

SEVILLE: Czechoslovakia beat Spanish first division side Seville 2-1 (2-0) in a friendly match here tonight. Veseli and Adamec scored for the Czechs; Cacon for Seville. Attendance: 25,000.

FEBRUARY 19

PARIS: Sir Stanley Rous, President of FIFA, said in an interview published here today that the number of World Cup finalists should be increased from 16 to 24 as soon as possible. He told the French weekly *France Football*: "I do not know what the FIFA Executive will decide in Mexico. This is a mere proposal but I hope it will be adopted for the 1974 World Cup." He said eight more qualifiers would mean two more places for Europe, one more for South America, one more for Central America, two more for Asia and two for Africa. "The Africans, for instance, could automatically select the winners of the African Cup and this competition would thus take more value and importance," he added.

FEBRUARY 20

LISBON: Benfica are to appeal against the eight-match ban on their home ground. In a statement today the club claimed that the ban was unjust.

LEON: Mexico beat Bulgaria 2-0 (0-0) in a friendly international played here today. Marcov Riva (49 minutes) and Ignacio Basaguren (59) scored Mexico's second-half goals.

FEBRUARY 21

MADRID: Spain forced a 2-2 draw against a polished Italian side in a friendly international here tonight. Anastasi and Riva put Italy 2-0 ahead but Spain drew level with somewhat lucky goals. A shot from Amancio was deflected into the net by Burgnich and two minutes later Salvadore deflected a shot from Arieta into his own goal.

ZALDUA, captain of Barcelona. (NC)

LIMA: Russia beat Peru 2-0 (0-0) in an international here today. Puyach scored in the 75th and 79th minutes.

FEBRUARY 22

MEXICO CITY: Mexican fans hurled cushions and whistled in derision as Sweden withdrew behind a defensive blanket to force a goalless draw against Mexico in an international here today.

FEBRUARY 23

ISTANBUL: Forty-seven people were injured in riots at weekend football matches in Turkey, and one player was on the danger list in hospital after being hurt on the field. Police fired shots into the air at Diyarbakir, south-east Turkey, when fighting broke out between supporters of the local team and of the visiting side, Hatay Spor. Thirty-four people were injured, three seriously. Ten spectators were hurt in clashes at Antakya in the south and three at Manisa in the west. The centre-forward of Samsun Spor was critically ill in hospital with a brain hæmorrhage today after he cracked his skull in an on-field collision with an Eskishehir player.

SAN SALVADOR: Russia beat El Salvador 2-0 (1-0) in an international here today. Pusak and Serebrianikov were the scorers. Attendance: 75,000.

More Next Month

ERIC WEIL reports from South America

Universidad the champs

UNSATISFIED players threatening strike action—their union is presided over by international goalkeeper, Ladislao Mazurkiewicz—and the activity of big clubs, Nacional and Peñarol, was still holding up the start of Uruguay's preparation for the World Cup at press time. National team coach, Eduardo Hohberg, said he would not announce his squad until the players were put at his disposal. This was going to be after March 1.

In the meantime Hohberg was working with an experimental squad of 23 players which did not include any from Nacional and Peñarol (whose players usually form the basis of any national team), but he had to expel nine of them when they refused to enter a practice game versus Red Star (Yugoslavia). Yet the remainder were good enough to hold Czechoslovakia's team of Prague players touring South America to a 2-2 draw.

Hohberg was highly satisfied even though the fitter Czechs, showing better organisation and preparation, came nearer victory in the second half. Uruguay, doing more of the attacking, lacked the surprise element with their slow rhythm and, as usual, needed a goal-scorer.

Now Nacional and Peñarol have bought six players of this squad and withdrawn them, so that Hohberg hasn't got even a "B" team left.

Meanwhile Nacional, the Uruguayan First Division champions, gave impressive performances to win the fourth Montevideo Cup international tournament as they had already done in 1967 and last year (Peñarol won the 1968 edition). Nacional may not be a brilliant team, but they have a very sound defence and play very aggressively. They are dangerous in surprise attacks and have three dangerous scorers of the type many a team would be happy to have just one of —Celio, Artime and Cubilla. The latter, playing better than ever, was the outstanding player of the tournament.

The tournament was an even bigger success financially than last year because most matches had interest and good soccer and because of the improving standard of both Uruguayan teams.

EXPLOITED

Nacional annihilated the two Argentine teams, River Plate and San Lorenzo, by 6-1 and 7-2 respectively to produce the surprise results of the tournament. River relied too much on their offside trap—the four backs and two halves move up to half-way almost in a line—which referees didn't always take notice of and Nacional's fast counter-attacks exploited. San Lorenzo, playing better soccer, were losing 3-2 but pressing for the equaliser seven minutes from the end when striker Artime unleashed all his fury to score three in five minutes while Mamelli made it 7-2 in the last minute. Artime netted five in the game.

Peñarol held Nacional in the last game to take the only point off them by cutting off the supply line between defence and attack. Peñarol finished second and were also unbeaten in spite of going through a transitional period and internal strife as their Brazilian coach, Osvaldo Brandao, is bringing in younger players to replace the old idols and speeding up the team's traditional slow game.

AGGRESSIVE

Third-placed San Lorenzo tried out a lot of youngsters in this tournament and played good soccer with a sound defence and cleverly rotating forwards, but they started the tournament with only ten days' training and were not 100% fit. Fourth-placed Corinthians (Brazil) played pretty but unpractical soccer, brilliant at one moment, disappointing the next. Only international,

Universidad de Chile's attack: Pedro Araya, Guillermo Yavar, Felix Lasso, Ruben Marcos and Leonel Sanchez. (EW)

Rodriguez (Universitario) leading scorer Zarate (Union Espanola), Quintano (U) and Farias (UE) from left to right in a league match. (EW)

Rivelhino, was consistently good, but definitely out of his position as a half.

River Plate (Argentine), fifth, apart from their dangerous offside game, played too aggressively and caused the only serious incidents (versus San Lorenzo and Nacional) and had players sent off. After Dominichi, Rodriguez and Mas were sent home for disciplinary reasons, the team quietened down and won their last two games, admittedly against weaker opponents, Corinthians and Red Star.

Red Star, the Yugoslav champions, finished with no points and were a great disappointment, so much so that the rest of their South American tour was cancelled by their hosts. On a number of occasions they went to pieces after conceding the first goal, but strangely they put up their best performance against Nacional. They were exceptionally poor in attack.

CHILEAN CHAMPIONS

Universidad de Chile won the Chilean championship for the seventh time since they started playing in the First Division in 1938, only now it's called the national championship. First they won the Metropolitan section of the current First Division and then, together with the provincial teams, the 18-club national championship, playing a total of 37 games, winning 22, drawing eight and losing seven with a 73-43 goal average.

They play 4-3-3, continually falling back and closing up in defence and looking for the chance to counter-attack. This is the style most used in Chile now, except for Colo-Colo and Union Española, who favour more attacking football. Universidad's main weapon is not to let rivals build up attacks. Coached by Ulises Ramos, who is in his first season with the first eleven, they did just enough to get the points in most games. Their soccer wasn't pretty to watch, but it was effective.

The champions' outstanding players were goalkeeper Nef, centre-backs Juan Rodriguez and Alberto Quintano, half Hodge and forwards Pedro Araya, Ruben Marcos and Spedaletti, an Argentine who was the team's top scorer. In other teams insider Carlos Reynoso (Audax Italiano), centre-back Gustavo Laube and veteran winger Alberto Fouilloux (both Universidad Catolica), Leonardo Veliz (wing, Union Española), Cortazar (half, Green Cross) and Carlos Caszelly (wing, Colo-Colo) shone.

Goalscorers were scarce, however, especially among the home players. Eladio Zarate, Union Española's Paraguayan forward, was leading scorer with 20 goals and there wasn't a Chilean among the top six.

In spite of changing the championship set-up several times to make it more interesting, gates were poor and the crowds only rolled up for the six-team national title play-off. The season was marked by repeated strike threats from players unable to collect their pay. The majority of the clubs are badly off—especially Colo-Colo, who have the biggest following, but also the most costly team. Bad administration, bad buying and team selection as well as injuries, were blamed for their comparatively poor record.

Looking at the brighter side, the season produced a number of promising youngsters who displaced, for example, such old-established stars as the champions' Carlos Campos and Leonel Sanchez. While the soccer in general was still too soft, play was tougher in the six-team play-off, influenced, no doubt, by the many foreign teams playing in Chile.

The Chilean fan's preference for good soccer, whoever plays it, was again shown in this summer's friendly international tournament. Many games were watched by between 55,000 and 70,000 people.

Santos won the tournament after a not so bright start and Pelé was in top form.

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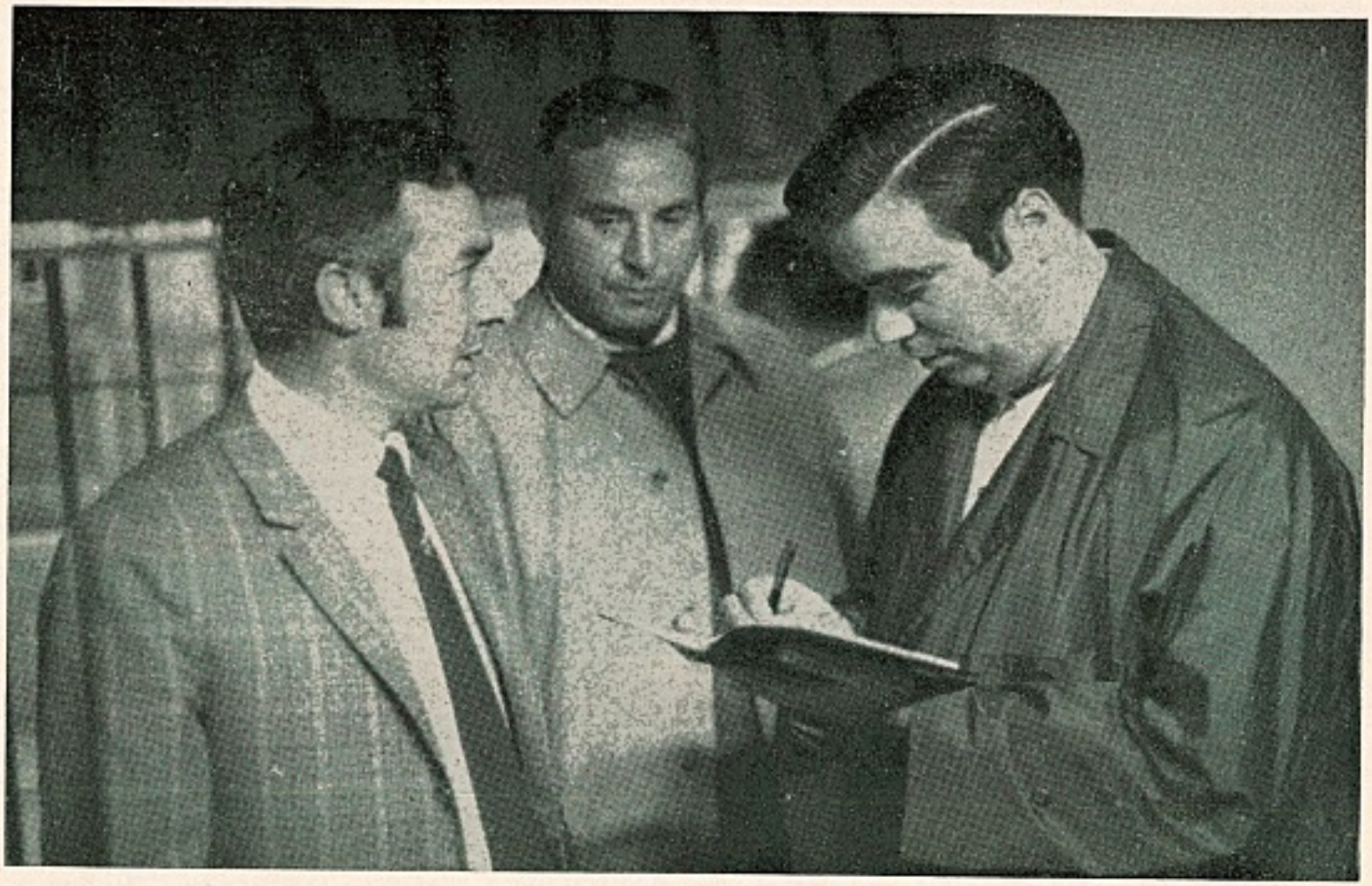


Brazil name squad

BRAZIL, the World Cup favourites and England's most formidable opponents in Group 3, are facing a number of problems which could seriously affect their chances in Mexico. National manager Jorge Zagalo is currently wrestling with these nagging doubts: will his brilliant striker Tostao be fit by May and can he regain his heading power following the recent operation on his eye retina? How will the two internationally inexperienced goalkeepers, Ado and Leao, stand up to the pressures of such an exacting tournament, and how reliable is the newly-formed defensive block?

Tostao was passed fit a month ago, but has since suffered a set-back when the retina became inflamed once more. Specialists hope, however, that he will be ready to join the squad in their training centre during March. Tostao scored ten goals for Brazil—more than any other player in all the qualifying games. He formed a superb partnership with Pelé and his absence would indeed be a major blow to his country's hopes of a World Cup hat-trick.

The acute shortage of first-class goalkeepers in Brazil, when one considers their enormous depth of talent in other positions, is quite inexplicable. The great Gilmar has retired after collecting his 100th cap, while the No. 2 custodian Manga is playing for Nacional Montevideo in Uruguay. Felix, who kept goal in all their qualifying matches, has been axed and so the Brazilians will journey to Mexico with two uncapped 'keepers!

Strange to imagine, but the best custodians there, are those imported from Argentina and even such a famous club as Santos have been forced to experiment with a Yugoslav 'keeper

Recurrent injuries have led to the exclusion of two key defenders Djalma Dias and Rildo. Their places wil be taken by either Scala or Baldocchi who have one cap between them and by Everaldo. But the question is: Will they fit in with the other established members of their rearguard? Of course, Brazil will play several preparatory matches including four full internationals in which these men together with the new 'keepers will be thoroughly tested. Time, however, is running short and may not permit too many changes.

At least there are no problems in midfield where Wilson Piazza, a personality "par excellence" and who speaks several languages, will most likely be named captain of the side. He is clearly being groomed by Brazil to become another Zito. Piazza will be flanked by the experienced Gerson and both are "shadowed" by the brilliant Rivelino, who is rated "the greatest reserve player in the world"—if such a description could ever be valid.

Brazil's pre-World Cup programme began in mid-February in a training centre situated strangely enough in a Jesuit monastery, only three miles from the famous Copacabana beach. During that period all players were subjected to extensive medical tests in the Miguel Couto hospital. Until March 4 they were allowed to bring their wives along, who were accommodated at the FA's expense in a hostel nearby.

Next followed the games against Argentina in Porto Alegre and Rio, then back to camp before the other fixtures v. Chile at Sao Paulo and Rio. On April 4, the squad will move to another centre at Manaus, on the banks of the Amazon from where they will fly to Guadalajara two days later, and remain there till May 8. The final preparations are scheduled for the town of Guanajuato which has a population of

Atletico Bilbao manager Ronnie Allen answers questions put by a member of the Spanish Press. (NC)

300,000 and lies some 60 miles from Guadalajara where the squad will return for the group matches.

Thus the Brazilians will spend over 100 days together, including 50 days in Mexico. Now they are under fire because their flop in England in 1966 also followed a three-month spell of internment. But at least Saldanha didn't make the mistake of swapping and changing the basic side, like his predecessor Feola who ended up by fielding 20 different men in three games. The loudest complaints are voiced by the clubs, who claim to be losing money through the absence of their international stars.

What changes new manager Zagalo will make to the preparations made by Saldanha will show themselves in the very near future.

OVERPAID OR UNDERPAID?

ARE British managers making the most of their suddenly acquired popularity in Europe, or strictly speaking in the Iberian Peninsula? This question is prompted by the financial angle of the contracts offered by some Spanish and Portuguese clubs to Messrs. Allen, Buckingham and Docherty as well as the recent overtures by Benfica for yet another Briton.

If the published figures of remuneration are correct, then cynics might be forgiven for thinking that Atletico Bilbao, Barcelona and Porto have engaged those men — admittedly not the best Britain can offer— at almost bargain rates of pay. Singing the praises of British football and its coaches is fine, but the reputed salaries of £10,000 a year are by comparison with earnings of other managers on the Continent merely modest rewards.

Consider the income of some top managers in Italy, beginning with the "magician" Helenio Herrera: His basic salary rose from £52,000 for last season to £63,000 for this term and now he has been guaranteed the staggering sum of £100,000 for next year. Including the bonuses and other emoluments, Herrera can look forward to a cool £140,000 for the 1970-71 season! How can his club AS Roma pay that kind of money? Well, their receipts during the first half of this season totalled £850,000. By way of an example: When they played Napoli recently in Rome's Olympic Stadium the 90,000 crowd paid £85,000 at the gate!

But Herrera's colleagues are not doing badly either. His namesake Heriberto, Paraguayan-born and known in Italy as H.H.2, has just extended his contract with Inter-Milan till the end of next season with a rise in salary from £25,000 to £28,000 p.a. Bruno Pesaola (Fiorentina) received £117,000 for a two-year agreement, plus double bonuses from European Cup games. Nereo Rocco (AC Milan) collected £40,000 for this season and in addition £14,000 for winning the world club championship. Juan Carlos Lorenzo (Lazio) enjoys a tax-free annual pay of £32,500, plus double bonuses and rent-free accommodation.

Maglio Scopigno (Cagliari) receives £32,500 p.a. and travelling expenses between his home in Rome and Sardinia. Even Nils Liedholm, who manages Second Division Varese, earns £29,000 a year and should they achieve promotion he can expect another £11,000 bonus.

In the light of these figures it is easier to understand why some Iberian clubs have plumped for British coaches. Obviously they refused or simply could not afford to splash out on the really top names. The demand for British leadership and their methods is encouraging and most gratifying and should enhance the prestige of this country. Always providing that Allen, Buckingham and Docherty are not underselling their services. Incidentally, though the number of British managers engaged abroad appears to be growing, they still have a long way to go before overtaking the staggering figure of 47 (!) Yugoslav coaches currently active overseas.

Searching the Soccer Scene with ARTHUR ROTMIL

MALE FANS OUTNUMBERED!

ENGLAND'S national side will be breaking new ground when they tackle Colombia at Bogota on May 20, as part of the World Cup preparations at high altitude. Even more interesting than the result itself should be the composition of the audience, for in Colombia more women than men attend soccer matches. The average ratio is 60-40 to the females, which is probably unique in the world.

Colombia, who have always languished in the shadows of their powerful South American neighbours like Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, last qualified for the 1962 World Cup in Chile where they lost narrowly 1-2 to Uruguay, drew 4-4 with Russia before going down 0-5 to Yugoslavia. In this game they were destroyed by the great Dragoslav Sekularac, so it was not surprising that they engaged him recently at the "veteran" age of 32. "Seki", the former "enfant terrible" of Yugoslav soccer, now stars for Santa Fé. His dribbles, tricks and twists as well as the inevitable theatrical gestures towards the referees send the locals into raptures. Not long ago he provoked a scandal in Cali, when he grabbed an opponent by the throat and held on until another player knocked him out with an uppercut, on top of which he was also sent off. But the crowd enthralled by this pugilistic side-show applauded Sekularac and screamed for more "action"!

Santa Fé are managed by another former Yugoslav international Toza Veselinovic, who on a recent visit home signed on two further compatriots. He has done a lot for the club who recently lost only 0-1 to Hajduk Split and drew 1-1 with Dynamo Zagreb though the visitors were clearly labouring at the height of over 8,000 feet a.s.l. Santa Fé's president is very rich and his greatest ambition is to topple the most famous outfit Colombia's the "Millionarios".

Before the arrival of Veselinovic, Santa Fé were at the bottom of the league, now they are next to top. Not that it matters really, for there is no relegation here. The only factor of importance is the winning of the title in order to participate in the South American Cup.

Interest in soccer is enormous with Santa Fé drawing some 50,000 crowds and even 65,000 when facing the "Millionarios". As I mentioned earlier, 60 per cent of those are females. England, you have been warned!

Saldanha Sacked

CONTROVERSIAL Joao Saldanha, former radio commentator, broadcaster and journalist, who took over control of the Brazilian national team, was sacked in a shock move shortly before this issue of "World Soccer" went to press.

Saldanha has been replaced by Jorge Mario Zagalo, outside-left in Brazil's World Cup-winning teams in 1958 and 1962.

Zagalo was manager of Botafogo and said after the appointment: "I am happy to serve. I could not refuse it, even knowing the obstacles I shall have to face. I am not afraid of the situation."

Saldanha, who recently returned to Brazil after an extensive European tour, recently came under attack from Antonio Do Passo, president of the technical committee.

It was Do Passo who first proposed Saldanha for the job of team manager despite the fact that his personal football experience was virtually non-existent. Saldanha, in his role as a journalist, was a fierce critic of the way in which the national team was run, particularly in 1966.

He was ultimately replaced because, it was said, he did not have the emotional balance to do the job. He refused to resign, and was sacked and replaced within 24 hours.

It was later learned that Saldanha had contemplated dropping Pele from the national team for the match against Chile, and, obviously, this met with disapproval from a number of quarters.

BELGIUM by Eric Batty

MEXICO 70

NOT long ago the image of Belgium's Red Devils was one of composed short-passing and intricate pattern-weaving. But if the Belgians have abandoned their red shirts they certainly haven't lost any of the devil in their play, and many a Spaniard or Yugoslav would claim that the Belgian national squad of 1970 is a rough, tough handful for anyone.

Before the last war, the Belgians participated in the final stages of all three World Cups but failing to qualify in 1950 their post-war appearances have been limited to a brief appearance in the 1954 series. Even then, and despite the undoubted talents of Rik Coppens, Jeff Mermans and Pol Anoul they finished bottom in their qualifying group and could only console themselves that they had at least won a draw from England. Having failed to qualify three times in a row, Constant Van Den Stock gave way after a ten-year reign during which he based his side on the elegance and experience of RSC Anderlecht. The FA offered the job to Raymond Goethals who was previously the trainer working under Van Den Stock's supervision.

Apparently somewhat grudgingly Goethals agreed to serve out the term of his contract with the FA though making it clear that he was sympathetic to his former chief and was inclined to resign to demonstrate solidarity. A former goalkeeper with VV Saint Trond, Goethals spent seven years as manager of his old club before being appointed to the FA job.

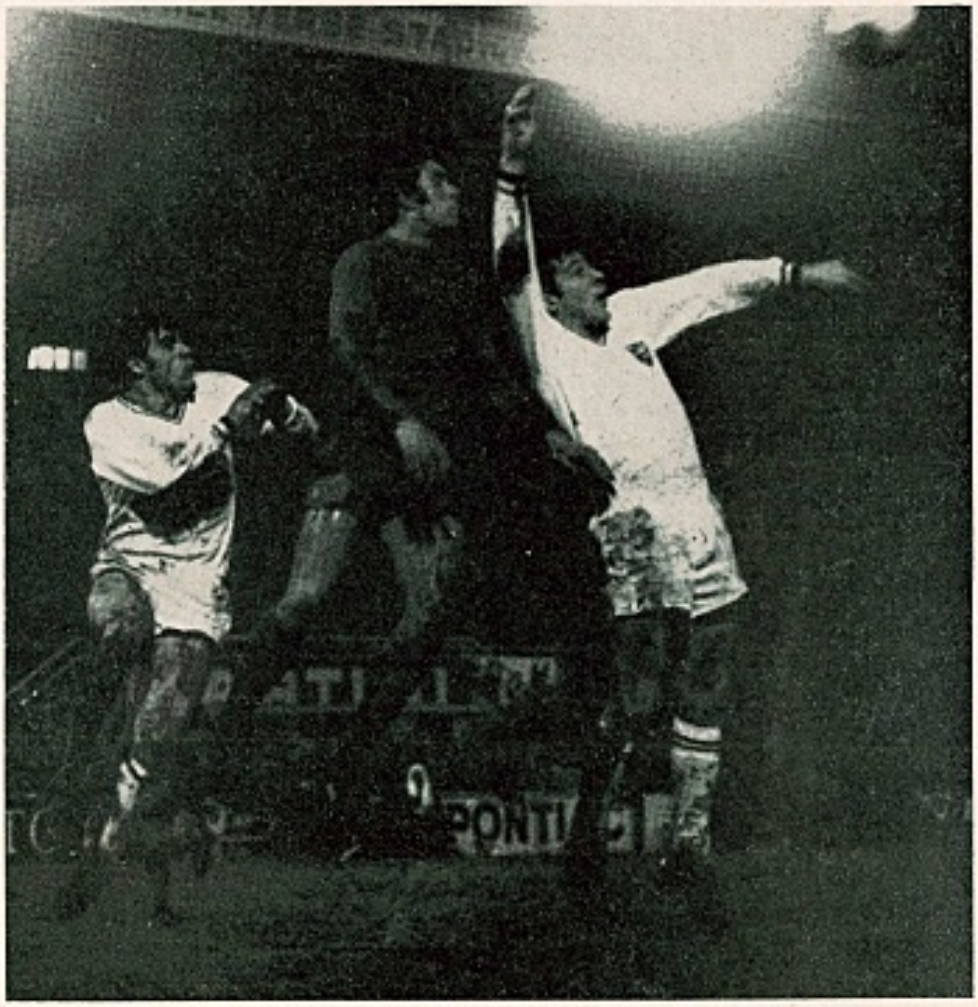
Tough and determined, as well as extremely nervous, Goethals has succeeded in developing a professional attitude among players who have previously been regarded as non-amateur. If the players available have improved as a result of constant contacts with the game in other countries via the international club competitions it is still true that producing the right blend of Anderlecht and Standard has been Goethals major achievement.

A hard man, very difficult to please, Goethals has inevitably produced a combination of talent and determination. Every man, possibly with the exception of Semmeling and Van Himst, is a natural fighter and Belgium's path to Mexico has been strewn with injuries and expulsions.

At home to Yugoslavia, soon after the Slavs surprisingly successful showing in the 1968 European Championship, right-back Heylens was expelled in Brussels during a 2-1 win. Up against Yugoslavia's left-wing wizard Dzajic, Heylens attempted to mark him tight and tackle quick. Through Yugoslav eyes, Heylens was guilty of serious foul play, but in many countries it would be accepted as "getting stuck in" and a natural part of the game.

Later during the 1-1 draw against Spain in Madrid, Hanon was sent off for arguing with the referee that Spain's late equaliser should have been annulled for offside. Sent off, Hanon declined to go and the Portuguese referee earned diplomatic protests via the Belgian Embassy in Lisbon for asking the Spanish *guardia civiles* to escort the Belgian captain off.

When the two teams clashed again in Liege it was Spain's last chance, and the Belgians knew that victory would assure them of a place in the finals. Inevitably this situation produced a tough game, even by present international standards and described by one continental authority as . . . "more like a Western film than a football match." Spanish left-back Eladio was sent off in this game, though everyone present—apart from a poor Swedish referee—agreed that Belgium's Oddilon Polleunis was the real culprit.



GEOFF HURST challenges Thissen and Jeck of Belgium. (UPI)

TRANSFERS

Overall, despite a considerable improvement in the level of play at top club standard, my feeling is that the Belgians qualified through the failings of the Spaniards and Yugoslavia's bad luck with regard to injuries and the transfers abroad of key players. This being so I cannot see them making any impression in Mexico and this decision has been reached from two independent views:

1. The Belgians' standard of play is in no way exceptional and therefore they would almost certainly fail against opposition which keeps things tight at the back, while launching counter-attacks at top speed which involve a rapid switching of positions.

2. Though the Belgians might well have been dubbed "tough" by ordinary standards they will certainly not succeed this way against the leading exponents of this school, i.e. England, West Germany, Russia, etc. No one else can play their game better than the physically determined English, Germans and Russians. In this context it would be unwise to rule out Italy for they, too, are familiar with the tight marking and tackling from behind defenders in everyday league play.

Having failed to qualify for three successive competitions, reaching the last 16 must be rated a success as far as Goethals is concerned and looking at the arrangements of fixtures in Mexico it seem clear that Mexico have a definite advantage.

Belgium's first match in Mexico is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3—the fourth day of the series. Then on the following Saturday they meet Russia and, finally, on Thursday, June 11, comes the decisive game against Mexico. The host country on the other hand has all the advantages which accrue to the home team—no problems re altitude, food and travel—and in addition have their preliminary round matches better spaced. They begin the tournament on May 31 with a match against Russia and have a full week to rest before the easy match v. El Salvador. Then four days later, on the

TOUGH TASK AHEAD

critical Thursday, they clash with Belgium.

However, the advantage given to Mexico by the people who drew up the match programme could be counterbalanced if Goethals reads the situation right. Like everyone else, Mexicans and Belgians alike, Goethals must see that Russia are the big favourites to win this group and the Belgium-Mexico struggle is for second place and a quarter-final clash with the Group 2 winners.

In November 1969 Goethals took a squad of possibles to play in Mexico City and without the services of all three first choice front players—Semmeling, Van Himst and Devrindt—they were beaten by only 1-0. Mexico alone should therefore hold no fears for Belgium unless they have been tired by playing three games in nine days. In the rarefied atmosphere of Mexico City this is a real possibility, but the situation could change radically if Goethals plays his cards right.

PROGRAMME

Looking at the programme is seems unlikely that Russian coach Gavril Katchalin will be satisfied with anything less than a victory in the opening game against Mexico who must therefore stake their all on winning their two remaining matches. Neither Mexico nor Belgium should have too much difficulty beating El Salvador, and thus everything hinges on the final match in this group: Belgium v. Mexico.

Goethals best chance would be to field a good side against El Salvador to ensure two points and then deliberately "throw" the clash with Russia, which Belgium would probably not win anyway. Should he field his entire reserve XI against Russia, the first choice team would then have eight days in which to recover for the big game with Mexico. In any case, Goethals has nothing to lose for should he attempt to get at least one point from Russia he is not only unlikely to succeed but will drain his players' physical resources without cause. This course would redress the balance quite considerably for the Mexicans "at home" have 12 days compared to Belgium's nine in which to play their three preliminary round games.

Throw the game with Russia, and assuming Mexico falls to Russia on the opening day, then Belgium has every chance of gaining a quarter-final place from two successes, against El Salvador and Mexico.

The Belgians' record since January 1, 1969 is hardly convincing: P 5, W 2, D 0, L 3, F 5 A 9.

In fact on paper it seems even worse than the cold figures indicate, for the recent 1-3 defeat at home to England was Belgium's third consecutive defeat during which only one goal was scored—and this a give-away gift from an England defence that failed to build an effective wall against a direct free-kick just outside the penalty area.

However, the figures fail to give a true picture of the Belgians' possibilities, although it must be conceded that Goethals and everyone else desperately wanted a win over England—something that has not been achieved since 1936. Belgium's first match in 1969 was the 2-1 win in the battle of Liege and from that time on Belgium were assured of their place in the last 16. The 0-4 defeat away to Yugoslavia which followed later can therefore be discounted as a match of little importance.

The other two games of 1969 were against Mexico—a 2-0 win during the Mexicans' disastrous European tour in the spring and a 0-1 defeat in Mexico City last November in which Goethals almost certainly decided not to show his hand, and fielded a team lacking all his three forward stars.

At full strength the Belgians play to a 1-3-1-2-3 system with the key men in defence being the *libero* "Nico" Dewalque and Jean Dockx, the left-half from Racing/White. For his club Dockx is the big star, playing a strong man game in midfield and roaming everywhere. Often amongst the scorers for his club Dockx is restricted to a more defensive role, playing in front of the back four and doing the job remarkably well.

The midfield motor-men who will carry much of the burden in Mexico are Wilfried Van Moer (Belgium's most expensive player at £35,000) and Odilon Polleunis of VV Saint Trond, who would surely be even more expensive should his club decide to let him go. Both Van Moer and Polleunis are cast from the same mould: quick, talented and hard-working they roam the spaces in midfield, challenging, defending, and supporting the attack as and when the opportunities arise.

Within reasonable limits the Belgian rear-guard can be expected to hold up against all but the most skilful and combined attacks. Certainly their preliminary group opponents, Russia, Mexico and El Salvador, should not cause any great difficulties in front of goalkeeper Jean Trappeniers. Bearing in mind that altitude will have similar effects on all the midfield men who do most of the running and chasing these days, Van Moer and Polleunis rate comparison with most of the visiting teams. Goethals' problems really begin up front where in Semmeling, Devrindt and Van Himst he has plenty of talent but little cohesion or understanding.

Leon Semmeling on the right wing is both frail and delicate yet without doubt he has a great deal of ability. This applies to an even greater extent to Paul Van Himst who, at 26, is the golden boy of Belgian football. The most experienced Belgian player with more than 50 international matches behind him, Van Himst has the ability to pass almost anyone in a one to one situation and is not only a scorer himself but a creator of chances for his colleagues.

Between Semmeling and Van Himst is one of Europe's most improved players, Johann Devrindt, who has more than his share of skill, speed and shooting power and in addition has a rare quality — courage. The Uwe Seeler type who appears willing to run through the side of a house if it will bring a shooting chance, Devrindt is the kind of player who could attract a great deal of attention from opposing defenders and thus leave ample room for Van Himst to sneak unnoticed into scoring positions.

Probable party:

Goalkeepers: Jean Trappeniers (RSC Anderlecht), Christian Piot (Standard-Liege).

Defenders: Georges Heylens (RSC Anderlecht), Leon Jeck, Nicolas Dewalque, Jean Thissen and Jacques Beurlet (all Standard).

Midfield: Wilfried Van Moer (Standard), Odilon Polleunis (St. Trond), Jean Dockx (Racing White), Jan Verheyen (Beerschot).

Forwards: Leon Semmeling and Henri Depireux (both Standard), Johan Devrindt, Paul Van Himst and Wilfried Puis (all RSC Anderlecht), Raoul Lambert (FC Bruges).

BELGIUM: Back row left to right: Georges Heylens, Jean Trappeniers, Nico Dewalque, Leon Jeck, Odilon Polleunis, Jean Thissen. Front: Leon Semmeling, Wilfried Van Moer, Johan Devrindt, Paul Van Himst, Wilfried Puis. (EB)

LADISLOV KUBALA—AND THE ROAD TO MUNICH, 1974

THE idol of Spain today — not for the first time — is Ladislov Kubala, the great Hungarian inside-forward, who in late July was appointed the "Sir Alf" of Spanish football.

He was made "supremo" of the International side, then wallowing in the mire of despair, completely demoralised and just about non-existent. A side that just couldn't care less and showed it on the field of play.

The situation was such that even the Minister of Sport, D. Juan Antonio Samaranch, appealed to all players and clubs in the name of patriotism to see that Spain takes her place among the great football nations of the world.

Today, inspired by the dedication of Kubala, the new methods, tactics and quiet confidence of Kubala and the tireless work of Kubala, Spain confidently and meritoriously has a foot firmly on the road that leads to Munich 1974.

During the first six months of his regime Kubala called 152 different players to Madrid for international training, special coaching and tactical study. He called the stars of the glamour clubs, the overshadowed promising players, youngsters without league experience, and even several who last season were playing in regional football.

Known and unknown were all the same to Kubala. All were treated equal. He had no more respect for Gento, Amancio and Iribar than he did for the unknowns, Puig Costas and Lora. He was seeking a squad that would play *for Spain* and help restore the country's international prestige, players who looked upon international selection as an honour.

Incentives

For too long Spain has relied on star names rather than talent, on players who have accepted their international place as a right, or a bore, and who only gave their best when high club incentives were available. Stars who demanded special privileges and absence of leave from training periods, because they were stars.

Kubala has changed all that.

He has laid down, and insists upon, three basic qualities . . . *querer, saber, poder* . . . to want, to know, to be able to. Any player not possessing *all* these qualities is out . . . diplomatically and kindly, but nevertheless, out.

At times he has been severely attacked by public and Press, especially when eliminating from the squad an established and popular name whom he considered lacked or failed to display these virtues. But, unlike Sir Alf Ramsey, he patiently answered his critics, explained his motives, then calmly got on with his job.

The most encouraging aspect of Spain's early revival is the tremendous co-operation given to Kubala by the clubs. Some have released as many as six players for international training only thre days before vital league games. Others have played key players out of position for the benefit of the National manager. Clubs have seen the red light at last and *are* putting country first.

International

After only six weeks under the Kubala regime, Spain, in October, beat Finland 6-0. It was encouraging, a start, and the team included four players completely new to international football.

by

NORMAN CUTLER

The real test came against West Germany's Mexico team (Bechenbauer and Overath were nursing injuries). The 1966 finalists were soundly beaten by a new look Spanish side that included only three "old school" stars . . . and five young, unknown new caps.

Only the comments of Helmut Schoen, West Germany's manager, are necessary. "We were beaten by a better team," he said, "one that showed speed, fight, superior technique and brilliant attacking modern football."

Domination

A week later against Italy's World Cup team, the same Spain showed their revival was no flash in the pan. Riva, Rivera, Facchetti, Salvadore, they were all there fighting like fury. The result was a 2-2 draw, after Spain were two goals in arrears after 18 minutes . . . then drew level in the next seven. Twice later they hit the bar.

Don't let anyone who wasn't there confuse you about this match. It was a Spanish triumph even greater than their defeat of West Germany. Italy threw in everything they knew in an effort to annul Spain's 75-25 domination. They made no impression whatsoever.

Signor Ferruccio Valcareggi, Italy's manager, said afterwards, "With this team Spain would be a dominant power in Mexico. They are a side to be feared, with speed, youth, technique and the genius of Amancio. But for the wood (posts) they would have won."

It is worth recording the Spanish team . . . Iribar. Sol, Gallego, Eladio, Costas, Uriate; Lora, Amancio, Garate, Arieta and Rojo. The other five . . . the first four played in the two matches to replace genuine injuries . . . are Grosso, Melo, Ufarte, Violeta, and goalkeeper Reina.

All this does not mean that Spain are already the World Cup winners of 1974 . . . although the public are talking in these terms. What has happened is that Kubala's quiet, methodical determination, technique and results he has achieved, have created a wind of change that is sweeping the country.

Confidence

Unfortunately this wind, at the moment is blowing too strong. It has created an air of enthusiasm and confidence that will inevitably receive set-backs and be blown sky high at the first defeat.

It is just as well that the people at the top . . . and the man responsible for it all, Ladislov Kubala, is able to look at success — so early in the four-year plan — with intelligence and sanity. In victory he talks of defeat, and explains "When results are adverse we shall use them to learn, when favourable to persevere."

There is a long way to go yet, but there is evidence, very very sound evidence, that suggests a bright future. Clubs, players and public are beginning to believe, after a long period of apathy and disillusionment, that success at International level is worthwhile.

Carry on Kubala . . . and congratulations.

The result of WORLD SOCCER'S World Cup Competition will be announced next month

New South Wales State team forward Mike Denton, formerly with Cambridge City (centre) has the ball snatched from his reach by Moscow Dynamo's world famous goalkeeper, Lev Yashin. (AD)

LUCKY, lucky Yashin. . . Who would have thought that this fabulous and brilliant Russian goalkeeper could be so described after a match against a mere New South Wales side? Yet that is the case: Yashin, the great Lev, was incredibly lucky and probably saved Moscow Dynamo from losing the match.

Twice the 27,000 spectators gasped as Yashin stretched for hard, low shots—and cleared with his foot. Once he flicked the ball to corner and once he actually stopped it on the line, with his heel.

Once even Yashin was helpless. John Warren, captain of the NSW side, burst through in the middle, sold two brilliant dummies and from 12 yards whacked the ball into the far corner. Warren was delighted— as was the crowd: to score a goal against an immortal is always a memorable occasion.

DYNAMO ALMOST GET UNSTUCK IN SYDNEY

ANDREW DETTRE in Australia

In the end, however, the superior skill, speed and teamwork of Dynamo proved to be just enough to scrape home for a 2-1 win. They played a surprisingly soft, elegant and imaginative type of soccer; more like a Brazilian side than a Russian. The star of the team was the brilliant left winger Gennadi Yevrujichin, a 25-year-old Moscow "student" whose dazzling speed and shooting power dynamited NSW to bits. He scored both goals for Dynamo—and almost paved the way for two others.

INFERIOR

Igor Chislenko, Dynamo's famous international, was a disappointment; at 31 he seems to be over the hill. Once an *enfant terrible* of Moscow soccer, Chislenko was a meek, timid fellow—a far cry from the fiery and devastating forward whom I saw during the 1966 World Cup.

The New South Wales team wasn't disgraced. Everybody expected them to be inferior in the fundamentals of the game—and inferior they were. This is such a chronic local disease that cannot be remedied in a few months or even years.

But at least the team was well organised, disciplined and, in patches, gave the Muscovites a run for their roubles. Credit for this must go to NSW State coach Frank Arok, the brilliant young ex-Vojvodina trainer from Yugoslavia who, it seems, is now recognised as Australia's best. Arok decided to give the NSW team something it has not had in years: cohesion. He included seven players from St. George-Budapest and built the team around them. The result was a combative, well-knit side.

GLAMOUR

Dynamos will play several more matches here; in Newcastle, Melbourne and Adelaide. Then, in June, Australian fans will see Manchester City play eight games in the various cities—almost certainly without their World Cup stars Bell and Lee. But even without them, the others, such as Summerbee, Young and Book will provide enough glamour to fill most of the stadiums.

At this stage it looks highly unlikely that Australia's international team as such will play either Manchester City or any other side this year. In fact, since that fateful 1-1 draw with Israel, this has become the world's greatest un-team; not a word about its plans or future, as though elimination from the World Cup had been such a heinous sin.

But it won't matter much, really. NSW now provides the nucleus of the Australian team—and no matter under what name, they will play quite a few matches during 1970. And if Frank Arok keeps getting a free hand from officialdom, they may even spring a pleasant surprise or two.

Part One of a Special WORLD CUP series begins on pages 24/25

Back row left to right: Oleg Sokolov (masseur), Gavril Kachlin (senior trainer), Albert Shesternev, Oleg Belokovsky (doctor), Vladimir Kaplichny, Kakhi Asatiani, Vitaly Khmelnitsky, Gennady Logofet, Vladimir Muntyan, Valentin Afonin, Murtaz Khurtsilava, Evgeniy Rudakov, Anatoly Byshovets, Vladimir Shmelev (masseur). Front row: Victor Serebryanikov, Mikhail Gershkovich, Evgeniy Lovchev, Guivi Nodiya, Revaz Dzodzuashvili, Anatoly Puzach, Nikolai Kiselev, Anzor Kavazashvili. (UPI)

MEXICO 70 RUSSIA by Eric Batty

TOWARDS the end of 1968 the Russian FA made their annual survey of their game and came to the conclusion that Mikhail Jakuschin was not the man to lead them to success in the competition they wanted above all to win. The World Cup has been Russia's prime target since they began to play freely in the Western World in the 1950's. To date their best performance was that in 1966 in which they reached the semi-finals before losing 2-1 to West Germany in Liverpool. Nikolai Morosov had been the man in charge of that bid, and while many other countries would have been delighted to reach the last four — in Russian eyes Morosov had failed.

In January, 1967, Jakuschin was appointed to succeed him and given the dual task of preparing the Olympic Games squad for Mexico (1968) and also the European Championship staged in the same year.

Poland were eliminated after two matches in which both sides fielded virtually their full international teams—this in the qualifying competition of the Olympics, and then unaccountably the Russians with practically their first choice team was eliminated by what was nothing more than a Czechoslovakia "B" side.

The Czechs themselves could hardly believe it, and while they went on to Mexico the Russians were left to concentrate on the European Championship. This was Jakuschin's last chance, and had Russia won the trophy it seems quite likely that he would have remained in charge for 1970. But after a 0-0 draw in the semi-final against Italy (who were hosts for the last stages) the rules of the competition called for a toss-up. Russia lost the toss, and Jakuschin's days were numbered.

Between January, 1962, and July, 1968, the Russians had appointed five different men. Simonian, Beskov, Morosov and Jakuschin had all proved themselves in Russia's domestic competitions, but in turn each of them had failed in the international arena. Having given an opportunity to almost every one of their top club managers the wheel turned full circle when the FA appointed Gavril Katchalin in December, 1968.

Fifty-seven years old at the time of his appointment, Katchalin had an almost impeccable record. As a player in the 'thirties he played for Lokomotive Moscow and later the neighbouring Dynamo club. In 1949 he was given charge of Lokomotive, and in 1955 he was appointed manager of all the Russian representative teams.

REMARKABLE

In two important respects Katchalin's first stint as top man was quite remarkable. First he held the reins for a far longer period than any of his successors, keeping the job from 1955 to 1962. In addition, and this is still true today, he won big international tournaments. True he failed in the World Cup of 1962, an event which led undoubtedly to his dismissal a few months later, but before this he had won for Russia the only two major honours they have ever annexed in football.

The first was the Olympic Games tournament in 1956, just a year after Katchalin took over. Staged in Australia, the Russians had little to beat except real amateurs—if such a thing ever existed—and two teams from Eastern Europe, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

In this series Katchalin encountered only one minor setback—a goal-less draw against an Indonesian XI which refused to do anything but defend. Right from the kick-off the Indonesians raced back as one man, and within seconds their penalty area contained all 11 players.

No matter what, they refused to come out, and though the game produced one or two amusing moments it was a match full of frustration for Russia who failed to score. On one occasion Sergei Salnikov, a most talented inside-forward, took the ball up to within a yard of the Indonesian penalty area. There he stopped and, putting his foot on the ball, he invited a challenge. Not one man moved to meet him. Salnikov left the ball and stood back a yard. Then two yards and three yards. Finally he had moved back five or six steps from the ball. No other Russian had moved towards the ball and finally one of the Indonesians found sufficient courage to forget the team's pre-match instructions. Sprinting to the ball, this Indonesian—who will be forever nameless—gave it a kick and immediately scuttled back into the penalty area.

As a football match it was a fiasco, but having held the mighty Russians Indonesia played a more open game in the replay and were beaten 4-0. Russia then moved on to beat Bulgaria 2-1 in the semi-finals and Yugoslavia — with Yachin, Kuznetzov, Netto, Simonian and Salnikov in their side —1-0 in the final.

In the 1958 World Cup Russia made their debut with Katchalin still in charge. They beat Austria 2-0, drew 2-2 with England (a major triumph at the time in Russian eyes), and lost 0-2 to Brazil. Brazil won the qualifying group, but England and Russia with three points each had to play off in Gothenburg where Russia won 1-0 with a second-half goal scored by left-winger Anatoli Ilyin of Spartak. In the quarter-finals, Russia went out 0-2 to the hosts, Sweden.

Katchalin remained in charge and went on to reach the final stages of the European Championship in 1960, beating Hungary in the qualifying round and being given a semi-final place when the Spanish Government refused to give the Russian players visas to enter Spain. The last stages were put on in France, and at Marseille Russia beat Czechoslovakia 3-0 to reach the final in which Yugoslavia once more provided the opposition.

The Yugoslavs, with Durkovic, Jusufi, Zanetic, Perusic, Sekularac and Galic, had eliminated France three days earlier in a scintillating 5-4 win, but Katchalin organised a tight defensive game, and despite a fine show by Dragoslav Sekularac Russia held on against all the odds to a 1-1 draw. In extra time, with the Yugoslavs still on top and making all the running, Russian centre-forward Victor Ponedelnik scored what proved to be the winning goal in the 113th minute.

Having achieved little of note since Katchalin's dismissal, the Russian FA recalled him in December, 1968. During the six years since his dismissal Katchalin had not been idle, and as manager of Dynamo Tbilissi he had proved beyond doubt that he had lost none of his touch, none of his ability to produce the right blend of players, and, more important, he had shown the priceless ability of picking young players who would develop into top-grade

YASHIN LEAVES VOID

stars. Under his guidance Tbilissi won the Russian championship in 1964 for the first time ever, and Katchalin was still with them when the FA summoned him.

Inevitably Katchalin wiped the slate clean and started afresh. With two years in which to work he never wasted a moment. Within a few weeks of his appointment he had taken his mixture of young unknowns and experienced internationals on a South-American tour during which they met a variety of club sides, and Katchalin studied his men.

Back in Russia, Katchalin declined to continue Jakuschin's methods of long training camps, preferring to let the players perform for their clubs during the Russian season and calling them up for brief periods. By the winter of 1969 Katchalin knew where he was going, and once more his men undertook a winter trip to South America. By this time the young players he had chosen had already begun to develop and, with established stars like stopper Schesternev, inside-forward Serebrianikov and left-winger Chussainov, the average age of his squad had been cut to a little over 24 years.

Amongst the young finds Katchalin unearthed Vladimir Muntjan, inside-left of Dynamo Kiev, who is perhaps the most skilful. Now 24, he still has only eight caps but improved so much during 1969 that he came from nowhere to win the Russian Footballer of the Year award. Working in midfield, Muntjan is a real find. Skilful, intelligent and hard working he has a tremendous shot from 25 yards, and, even more important, he knows when to produce it and when to let the ball go.

Yevgeni Lovtchev (left-back of Spartak Moscow) and Mikhail Gerschkovic (Torpedo centre-forward) are two 21-year-olds who have blossomed under Katchalin while almost inevitably he has also called up several of the young players he developed during his stint with Dynamo Tbilissi. Of these full-back Dzoduaschwili (24), Asatiani (23) and Nodija (21) were unknown and uncapped before Katchalin took over. The only Tbilissi player now in the squad who was already an established international was centre-half, stopper-cum-defensive wing-half Murtaz Churtsilava, who at 27 already is a veteran of 35 international matches.

Other players likely to take the eye and cause opponents most trouble are Anatoli Bycheveez (Dynamo Kiev) inside- or outside-left who is the Russian version of Italy's Luigi Riva; his club mate Anatoli Puzach on the right-wing, 29 years old but with only four caps—all given to him by Katchalin.

Soon after his appointment had been announced Katchalin gave a broad outline of his views to the Russian press. Summing up all he said in one sentence he made it clear that in addition to being able to spot talent and produce the right blend he also understands the problems of modern football. "Modern football," said Katchalin, "demands more than just natural ability. Indeed I would go so far as to say that moral qualities, courage, discipline and dedication are more important than anything else."

With his new team still only half built and certainly not as experienced as he would have liked it, performances in 1969 underline all he said. With Northern Ireland having got away to a flying start by taking four points from Turkey, the Russians first match was the most difficult —away to Ireland in Belfast.

JEOPARDISE

Walking out on to the pitch his players knew that defeat would seriously jeopardise their qualifying chances. This cup-final, death-or-glory atmosphere proved the strength of his new squad for they managed to contain George Best, and if the game was far from spectacular entertainment from the spectators' view, the Russians put on a disciplined performance.

Drawing 0-0 they went on to beat Turkey 3-0 in Moscow, and after beating the Irish 2-0 in the return the crisis was over.

With his squad now almost settled, Katchalin has one problem position to fill—the void left by the irreplaceable Lev Yachin. Now 40 years old, Yachin is still rated Russian's best custodian, but Katchalin said recently: "He doesn't want the responsibility of playing in important matches."

The choice narrows down to three men—Yevgeni Rudakov, 28 year old, big, full of courage but a little clumsy at times, lacking the calm authority one expects from a reliable 'keeper; Anzor Kavasaschvili (formerly with Torpedo and now with champions Spartak), 30 years old but never any better than second choice, and finally the man whom Jakuschin produced, the giant Juri Pschenitschnikov, who played against England at Wembley in the 2-2 draw of December, 1967, and looked as if he had the makings.

Once qualified, Katchalin released his players once more—in contrast to Jakuschin who kept his players "in camp", away from their clubs, families and friends for two-thirds of 1968. During the winter break this season all the possibles went off with Katchalin for three weeks' physical preparation in Yugoslavia before undertaking another South-American tour in March.

The results were good if not remarkable, but a 2-0 away win against El Salvador and a 0-0 draw in Mexico City will surely give his team the confidence they might otherwise have lacked. They know what they are up against.

Probable party:

Goalkeepers: Anzor Kavasaschvili (Spartak), Yevgeni Rudakov (Dynamo Kiev) and Juri Pschenitschnikov (ZSDA Moscow).

Defenders: Revaz Dzodzuaschvili (Dynamo Tbilissi), Albert Schesternev (ZSDA), Murtaz Churtsilava (Dynamo Tbilissi), Yevgeni Lovtchev (Spartak), Vladimir Kaplitschny (ZSDA), Nikolaj Kisseljev (Spartak), Vladimir Ponomarev (ZSDA).

Midfield: Victor Serebrianikov (Dynamo Kiev), Vladimir Muntjan (Dynamo Kiev), Alezej Jeskov (ASK Rostov), Alexander Tchumakov (Torpedo), Kakhi Asatiani (Dynamo Tbilissi).

Forwards: Anatoli Puzach, Vitaly Khmelnitzkyand, Anatoli Bycheveez (all Dynamo Kiev), Giwi Nodija (Dynamo Tbilissi), Mikhail Gerskovitch (Torpedo) and Galimzjan Chussainov (Spartak)

RUDAKOV of Dynamo Kiev. (UPI)

Action from the first game between Mexico and Bulgaria in the Aztec Stadium, Fragoso of Mexico (10) and Dimitrov of Bulgaria (3) contest possession while referee Diego di Leo keeps a close watch at the goings on. (SD)

International Post-Mortem by ROGER MACDONALD

BRAZIL SLIP UP AGAINST ARGENTINA

FOR Brazil, a bad moment against Argentina; for Italy, a fiasco in Madrid; for Rumania, a tour of mixed fortune in South America; and still no clear favourite for the World Cup itself.

Brazil, beaten by and beating Argentina, are little better than the team that lost the World Cup in England four years ago. Pele, admittedly trying hard to keep down a fever at the time of the Argentine matches, carries his 29 years without conviction. True, he did score the winning goal in the second match; eight minutes from the end, but this was almost his only contribution. In absolute terms it is of course quite enough for one particular player to score one particular goal: but not in the harsh circumstances of the World Cup finals. Pele has already made it clear that he won't take the sort of risk he took in 1966, that of turning his back on the defence in the penalty area. But as a midfield player who comes from behind, he lacks energy and conviction—and Brazil already have one midfield player, Gerson, whose stamina is suspect.

Tostao has just returned from another post-operation examination at Houston in Texas, from where his calls home have cost the Brazilian F.A. a sizeable sum in bills. But it will have been money well spent if Tostao recovers his full effectiveness in time for Mexico. He was perhaps Brazil's best forward against England last year, scoring (while lying on his back) the equalising goal, and Saldanha knows he has no-one even half as good. Rivelinho has not got the same accuracy under pressure and has looked woefully unfit; in a practice between Brazil "A" and Brazil "B" (which Brazil "B" won 1-0) Rivelinho was completely overshadowed by Dirceu Lopes, who played himself into the first team. But even Lopes, a gymnastic, wiry Negro, does not blend well with Pele, always trying to beat a man for his own aesthetic satisfaction.

If there is a replacement for Tostao—still forbidden to head the ball by his doctors, and not, by all accounts, the player he was—then it could be . . . Antonio Honorio. That name does not, I am sure, ring a bell, but Antonio Honorio is also called Coutinho. Back in 1959, in his first year as a professional, Coutinho partnered Pele in the national side, and a brilliant partnership it was. Coutinho set off Pele's great skills with his own inimitable cunning and finishing power, and he looked certain to play in the 1962 World Cup, in Chile. But an injury, self-inflicted through carelessness in training, kept him out at the very last moment, and Vava—the old faithful of 1958 — came back into the victorious side.

Coutinho, by now overweight, played with conspicuous lack of success on Brazil's 1963 tour of Europe and was soon dropped by Santos. Two spells in the reserves and a cartilage operation in 1966 further reduced his value, and Penarol got him on the cheap for a season. He failed to make much of an impression, made a further journey to Bahia in northern Brazil, and eventually ended up with Santos, tied by the retain and transfer system, but without a contract. It was only by chance that Santos used him in an international tournament in Chile, when they were desperately short of forwards, but Coutinho took the chance brilliantly and has been given a new short-term contract on the condition he keeps his weight down. Saldanha claims he dropped hints of Coutinho to turn attention away from Tostao, who says with feeling whenever a journalist approaches him: "For God's sake don't ask me about my eye." But Saldanha is good at hedging his bets, and Coutinho is, I am sure, still in the reckoning.

Saldanha has modified his likely eleven for Mexico, which, he says, is now likely to be chosen from: Ado; Carlos Alberto, Ze Maria, Baldochi, Scalla, Joel, Everaldo, Wilson Piazza, Gerson, Jairzinho, Tostao, Pele and Edu. I feel this is Saldanha the journalist speaking rather than Saldanha the team-manager, because almost every player has a question-mark against him.

Ado, the big 23-year-old Corinthians 'keeper, made a critical error in the first game against Argentina and was dropped in favour of Leao for the second. Carlos Alberto has been off form and his deputy, Ze Maria, injured, forcing Saldanha to try out 18-year-old Marco Antonio. Like Aldo, Baldochi, the Palmeiras full-back, had his first full international against Argentina; like Ze Maria, Scalla has been troubled by injury. If the vigorous Joel and the effervescent Everaldo have no obvious competitors, many experts prefer Ze Carlos or Clodoaldo, who had a good match against England, to the pedestrian but hardworking Piazza . . . and there are any number of alternatives to Gerson, at least on paper.

Of the forwards only Jairzinho is in top form, a superb winger yet flexible enough to adapt to any situation; Pele looks a spent force; Tostao is still injured, and Edu looks too frail for the fray, in danger of losing his place to the Zagallo-type winger, Paulo Cesar. It becomes clear that Saldanha's men qualified easily for Mexico not because they were so good, but because Venezuela, Colombia and Paraguay were unbelievably bad.

Argentina played impeccably in Brazil and showed that, defensively at least, they are still a great team if the spirit takes them towards skill rather than sadistic violence, but the World Cup has passed them by. The most Argentina can contribute to the matches in Mexico is one player . . . for Israel Gymnasia de La Plata has one Jewish forward, inside-right Roberto Zywica, who has been playing regularly in Argentine football. He started with River Plate but did not quite make the grade, and it took two years with Gymnasia for his full talent to develop.

Israel have already made a tentative approach to Gymnasia, and if their recent results are anything to go by they need all the reinforcements they can get. Defeats by Rumania's Olympic side and the Netherlands were discouraging but not disastrous. But then Borussia Munchengladbach, the West German league leaders arrived, to become the first German side to play an official match on Israeli soil. To guard against possible sabotage, a West German airforce plane flew the team direct to Jaffa, where they proceeded to score six against the best Israel could muster. Borussia were two up in ten minutes, when Israel promptly changed their goalkeeper, bringing on Zeidenberg for Visoker. It made little difference. Borussia got a third before half-time, and the last Israeli resistance crumbled when their key centre-half, David Primo, hurt himself in a tackle and had to go off. On this showing Israel will be lucky not to be heavily beaten in all their World Cup-ties in Mexico.

Borussia's captain, Gunter Netzer, was severely criticised when West Germany lost 2-0 to Spain in Madrid, and promptly threatened to give up international football altogether. The German team manager, Helmut Schoen, talked him round, but there is clearly a general malaise within the West German side. The star player, Franz Beckenbauer, dropped out of the game with Spain because his son is dangerously ill in a Munich hospital.

Unless he recovers substantially over the next two months, Beckenbauer may not even go to Mexico at all—which would be a body blow to Germany. Then there is the problem of Gerd Muller and Uwe Seeler, who cannot, short of some unforeseen change of style, both play in the final German eleven. Muller, who has scored over 25 goals in the league this season, is adamant that he won't play with Seeler and that he won't go to Mexico as his deputy. Muller takes the view that Seeler does not justify his selection and has said so publicly. A tough situation for Schoen, who has always had things his own way in matters of team selection. His first reaction was to call everyone together to watch a film of Peru beating Argentina. He said later: "If we can't agree on our own weaknesses, at least we can agree on our opponents' shortcomings."

Spain's victory over West Germany was largely the work of Ronnie Allen's players from Bilbao, Uriate, Rojo and Arieta, who scored both goals. It was a heartening win for Spain, who promptly came within a hairsbreadth of beating another finalist, Italy. The Italians started well enough, Riva testing Iribar with a thunderous free-kick, although a better defender than Sol might have stopped them taking a two-goal lead. First Anastasi dribbled all too easily around Sol to score, then Sol tried a hasty clearance which hit Riva on the chest and bobbed over the line.

At this stage Italy looked the greatest team in the world, stroking the ball about with great finesse and showing that in terms of technique they could beat Spain by a street. Spain, however, thought otherwise, and Italy's defence went to pieces under pressure. In the 23rd minute there was a wild mix-up in the Italian penalty area, with Italy trying vainly to get the ball away as it sailed up and down in a series of mis-headers. Finally it ran loose to Rojo, whose shot was going wide until Burgnich tried to deflect the ball and did . . . into his own net.

This goal gave new heart to Spain, and the equaliser came from their very next attack. Arieta escaped the defender marking him by running with the ball towards the far right-hand corner, where he centred in almost indiarubber fashion, still almost facing the corner flag. The sudden arrival of a fast, swirling centre caught Italy off balance, and Salvadore sliced it spectacularly past his own goalkeeper. Spain now had Italy on the run, and in the opening quarter of the second half they played some magnificent football.

In one incident Garate hit the angle between post and bar with a superb shot on the run, and Lora headed the rebound back against the bar. A minute later Zoff made a fabulous save from another shot by Garate, and it was he who saved Italy during this period of intense Spanish pressure.

Italy's main problem still seems to be their inability to travel, for their results away from home are poor in comparison with, say, England, whatever the standard of the opposition. I don't suppose the Italian FA will take up Brian Glanville's suggestion that they should take 22 mothers along with their players to Mexico, but they are trying to reduce the psychological disturbances which such a protracted trip will involve.

The Italian FA president, Artemio Franchi, told me recently that he hoped to get all transfers in the close-season that involve members of the tour party completed before their departure for Mexico, to keep the players' minds on the job in hand and to dampen the usual period of rumour and counter-rumour. In Italy, of course, a player is expected to rubber stamp whatever arrangement are made between clubs, and he would be even less likely to have any say in his future while he was thousands of miles away.

In Uruguay it's been less a case of keeping the players happy than of persuading them to take part at all. The smaller clubs, which means everyone bar Nacional and Penarol, wanted to bar the two giants from taking part in the South American Club cup. They used preparations for the World Cup as an excuse, hoping to force Nacional and Penarol to hand over a considerable share of their gate money to satisfy the rest. The rift got to such a serious level that the Uruguayan president and secretary actually resigned, whereupon the clubs were accused of "unpatriotic acts" by government officials. But after a round of talks the matter was settled with a compromise solution which, briefly, enabled Penarol and Nacional to play in the Liberators cup providing they fixed dates for matches which did not conflict with World Cup practices. At the same time the players received a promise of bigger bonuses and a larger basic wage, so it seems they will be in good heart for the finals.

Uruguay's first full-scale practice, however, did not impress the sportswriters. Uruguay played and beat Alto Peru 2-1 in a game of poor standard and little enthusiasm. But as this game took place before the new agreement and clashed with an important fixture for Penarol, Rodolfo Sandoval, Alberto Martinez and Walter Corbo could not play. As Ruben Barreno was also injured, it can be seen that Uruguay fielded a side far below their full potential .

The Uruguayan coach, Juan Hohberg, has released a list of 25 players from whom the final squad is likely to be chosen. Some of his selections are particularly interesting. They include Francisco Cammara, a sort of Nobby Stiles from the Bella Vista club, who sticks to forwards like a leech; Victor Esparrago (National), another 90-minute man used in midfield; Alfredo Lamas, Penarol's full-back noted for his stamina and ability to come from behind, and two men from Uruguay's Liverpool club, Carlos Perez and Jorge Vazquez. Both are hard, tough defenders, noted for their industry, and both could play in Mexico. Hohberg, it seems, is making sure that if Uruguay fail it will not be for lack of strength and stamina.

The only shadow over Uruguay's team is a recent drug test taken on two players

● Continued on page 31

Swedish goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom saves a header from Fragoso (10) during an international at Puebla. Other players left to right: Selander, Pereda, Svensson and Kristensson. (SD)

HOFFER IS NEW TEAM MANAGER

Hungarian News by LESLIE VERNON

AS I anticipated in this column last month, the Hungarian F.A. has appointed Jozsef Hoffer as national team manager. The 47-year-old Hoffer will still keep his job as head of the sports section of the official news agency MTI, and will run the country's team on a "social" basis.

When he was questioned about this curious new-fangled term, Hoffer said: "Being a 'social team boss' means that I can keep my present job and deal with the national squad in my spare time as though it were a hobby or an obsession! I shall appoint a coach in the near future who will look after the players, but the selection of the team, tactics, pre-match talks, etc. will be my duties."

Well, the Hungarians always had a marvellous individual touch, and to invent this "social" tag is typical of them. Although other countries also have had part-time national team managers in the past, I personally think that in the present low state of Hungarian football, a full-time man should have been put in charge.

Obviously Hoffer is not really keen on the job, knowing how difficult and uncertain it is, so he shrewdly accepted it only with the proviso that at the same time he could keep his safe desk job at the MTI. I do not blame him at all, and his answers to other probing questions show that he knows what is needed to revive the "corpse".

Q: *How are you going to select your team?*

A: I shall pick an eighteen-man squad according to past performances and present form. Age or the reputations of the players do not matter.

Q: *Do you believe in any particular playing formation?*

A: No. We must be flexible in all departments, although I would like to field two old-fashioned wingers. I will not settle for any compromises ,and will use players only in their usual club positions. (Ha! Ha!).

Q: *What are your plans for luring the crowds back on the terraces?*

A: I am not promising any miracles, but my team will be a fighting outfit and entertaining to watch. With the help of my coach, we shall find the youngsters who are willing to give everything they have in the national jersey. No more "prima-donna" attitudes or "reserved places" in the country's representative eleven!

Good luck Jozsi! I am convinced that you will do your best. I only hope that all concerned will co-operate fully and allow you time to slowly build a solid foundation for Hungarian football.

Before the appointment of Hoffer, the new F.A. committee was also announced. They are: President, Dr. Andras Terpitko; vice-president, Istvan Buda; secretary, Janos Borzsei; members, Andras Zalka, Dr. Gyorgy Szilagyi, Mihaly Kertes, Robert Golias, Jozsef Bozsik, Gusztav Sebes, Sandor Bares, Janos Palfai.

Interesting names are ex-team manager Sebes, and the Hungarian UEFA representative and well-known football diplomat, Bares. Palfai is the national coach—the Magyar "Alan Wade".

The new committee has issued a blueprint for future seasons, which they say would be "perfect" for the nation's top teams and players.

This is the 1970/71 diary: 1. Summer rest period (June 29-August 8): ten days complete rest, four weeks training, ending in domestic cup matches. 2. Autumn League season (August 9-November 29): Including internationals on country and club level. 3. Rest and touring period (November 30-December 31): Maximum of two weeks' touring allowed, but the players must have the rest of this time free of competitive football. 4. Training period (January 1-February 1): Training camp get-togethers, preparation for the second half of the season. 5. "Mixed" training and touring period (February 2-March 1): Clubs allowed to go abroad or train at home. 6. Spring League season (March 2-July 5): Including internationals on country and club level.

WINTER TOURS

So the over-long winter tours are outlawed, and the clubs must find the extra revenue by attracting bigger crowds to their home matches. In any case, several Hungarian clubs priced themselves out of the South American market and not one of them managed to fix up a tour for last winter.

Only Csepel went on an extensive journey—to Indonesia and Malaysia, where they won all their matches.

No outstanding transfer news in the close season either, although Ferencvaros are losing their players by other means. First, Szucs departed to Honved, where he might have to wait for 18 months before his transfer becomes legal, then Gyula Rakosi received a six months disciplinary suspension for "inciting the other players and causing general dissent". Rakosi was one of the flag-bearers of the old-guard, but he was no more guilty than several others, and this is a harsh decision for a player who is in his 19th year with the club.

The Hungarian youth squad is getting ready for the UEFA tournament which is to be held in Scotland this year. Ferenc Machos, youth coach, selected the following players for the competition: Bencze, Polyak, Komjati, Lukacs, Gergely, Toth, Csorna, Emodi, Varga, Horvath, Foldesi, Jelinek, Gass, Bartok, Fehervari, Kimszt, Zsedenyi, Muha. These are the young hopefuls, and the veteran "hopeless" team is also ready to challenge the rest of Europe once again.

Hidegkuti, Sandor, Grosits and Co. have already fixed up games against the "old-boys" of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. There is also talk of a repeat meeting between "the Wembley 6-3" teams in London.

I, for one, would like to see Puskas and Matthews facing each other on a football pitch once again!

The small county of Fejer Megye must have heard of Dennis Hill-Wood, the Arsenal chairman. For the coming "one-season-only" campaign, they have introduced Hill-Wood's idea of abolishing the points and goal average system and are counting only goal differences to decide the placings. They expect more goals, bigger crowds (last season's average 150!) and less rough play. Most people say this is an interesting experience, but it sounds pretty daft to me!

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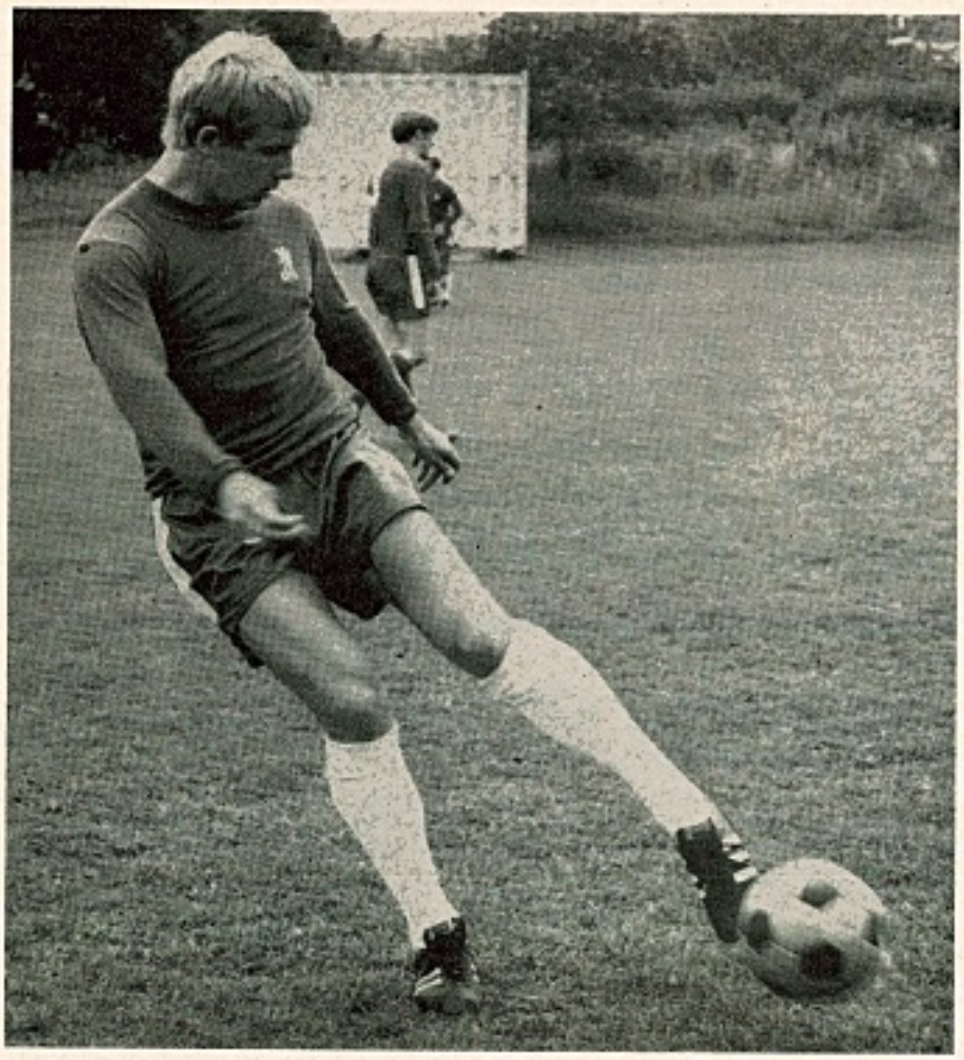

LUCK TURNS SOUR

ALAN BIRCHENALL talks to Gregory Tesser

THE current season, 1969-70, has hardly been one of 24-year-old Alan Birchenall's most memorable campaigns. Certainly he started off like a bomb: two superb goals against Arsenal, and vital goals in both League Cup clashes with champions Leeds United. However, soon after Chelsea's fine victory over the Yorkshiremen, Alan was crippled by a niggling knee injury. At first it seemed as if Birchenall would miss only a couple of games, but despite intensive treatment at Stamford Bridge the knee did not respond as it should have done.

Finally, however, "Birch" was able to take part in full-scale training, and eventually he became fit enough to play for the Chelsea reserve team in the Football Combination.

I asked Alan if the experience of playing before a handful of people at Stamford Bridge had depressed him at all: "Well, playing for the reserves is without doubt an ideal breeding ground for young hopefuls just starting their career, but people should remember that I have had six years in the First Division, and I found the lack of atmosphere and competition in the Football Combination extremely disconcerting. I began to lose all my enthusiasm, and to all intents and purposes I had lost my appetite for the game I love so much.

"I need atmosphere because I have always found that big-time soccer brings out the best in me. I have found throughout my career that my main asset has been my ability to rise to the occasion."

Birchenall had a satisfactory career with Sheffield United. As a youngster he once banged in 65 goals in one season in the highly-competitive Northern Intermediate League—and this is still a record! He played only five reserve games for United before being drafted into the first team. He found himself in a Sheffield side full of tremendous potential, but never quite able to be as consistent as their supporters would have hoped. So the astute Birchenall realised that he had to move.

In 1967 he joined Chelsea for £100,000, and this transfer led to a great deal of discontent among the Sheffield fans. To lose both Birchenall and Mick Jones was, in their eyes, the end of the road. Birchenall was accused of deserting a sinking ship.

"This accusation was wholly unjustified," he told me. "Although I had joined a more glamorous club, their position at the time was hardly what might be termed promising. We were playing with an utter lack of confidence and were struggling to lift ourselves from the bottom four.

"However, my debut for Chelsea was more than satisfactory—I scored in the fourth minute at Sunderland.

"Basically though I did not produce the sort of form expected of a £100,000 player in my first season at the "Bridge". I honestly believe that I only kept my first team place because of the huge price tag over my head."

ZOOMED

Last season was undoubtedly his best for Chelsea. He built up so much confidence that even the hard-to-please Chelsea throng began to take Alan seriously.

"I was really looking forward to the big kick-off in 1969. But obviously fate was against me."

This season, after a very indifferent start, Chelsea literally zoomed up the First Division table, and Alan looked at one time a possible candidate for the Mexico World Cup finals. But now, as we all know, Lady Luck turned against him not once, but twice!

After a four-month lay-off through injury, he was eventually recalled to the first team for the vital First Division clash with Fairs Cup holders Newcastle United. A good performance might well have brought him F.A. Cup glory, but this was not to be. He collided with the Newcastle goalkeeper, Ian McFaul, and was carried off suffering with a nasty cut near the knee. He was taken to hospital, and now has a tough fight-back ahead of him in a bid to regain his fitness.

I asked Alan for his own personal feelings on the future: "My initial aim, of course, is to get myself fully fit. When I have done this I have then got to work harder than ever before in attempting to win my first team berth back. After all, things are only just beginning at Chelsea. If I am able to regain my place in the First XI, I will be playing for a side that in my estimation could well sweep the board next term."

East Ham born Alan Birchenall has learned this season that professional football is not all roses and sunshine. The sort of run of bad luck he has experienced this year will, I am sure, make him work that much harder in the future, and certainly "Birch" possesses enough strength of character to fight his way back, and once again be a vital member of London's soccer champs.

The need for a new great team

writes ERIC BATTY

JUST a few weeks away from another World Cup series and even more than ever before the championship seems to be wide open. Brazil, England, Italy, Russia, the Germans and even Mexico as host nation all stake a claim, while if all the reports of Peru's talent are true they too must be given a place in the reckoning. But for one reason or another there is no clear favourite and certainly not a team to which the critics could refer as being the "example" upon which everyone must frame their own efforts for the future.

Two of the highly rated teams—Mexico and Russia—met recently at the Aztec stadium and if both sides were satisfied with the scoreline (0-0) few of the Mexican critics had anything complimentary to say about either team. One headline which took my eye seems to sum up the state of the game at present . . . *Fenomenal aburrimiento en el Mejico-URSS*—"phenomenal boredom".

At this particular time in the evolution of the game most of the major honours are being taken by teams who play a tactical game based on the defend and counter-attack principle with the most successful sides having in addition one or two players in midfield and defence who can be relied upon to prevent an enemy "star" from displaying his talents.

DEMAND

Though England supporters are still difficult to convince it is accepted almost everywhere else that only the Hungarians (and to a lesser extent Portugal) produced football of a high quality in the 1966 World Cup. Had Hungary beaten Russia in their quarter-final clash and gone on to reach Wembley and there produce two or three of the "Farkas" goals seen in Liverpool the game might already have taken a turn for the better.

But as things stand now it appears to almost everyone that the British way of playing is the type of game most likely to bring good results. Hardly a week goes by without one of Europe's leading sports papers producing an article which says more or less "we must begin to play the way the British play", and of course English coaches are in great demand everywhere.

Should England fail to do well in Mexico this will not necessarily bring an immediate improvement in playing standards or set the game off on a new course. If the Brazilians are successful who else can re-produce the talents of Pelé? And *if* it is not Brazil who take over England's crown it will almost certainly be a team from the same school which wears the mantle of *greatness* until 1974.

This is the real tragedy of the game today, that there is not one team in all the world that I could point to and say . . . "Go and see them. They will show you *real* football."

In the early 1950's we had the great Hungarian team of Bozsik-Hidegkuti-Puskas fame to applaud and emulate. Later from the middle fifties it was Real Madrid who set new standards that no one else could match but apart from Benfica, whose light flickered momentarily from time to time while they were under the influence of Bela Guttmann, no one else has been capable of producing top quality football and at the same time earn consistently good results.

We can have football it seems of high quality or we can have the tough, defend and counter-attack game, but we cannot have both. We must choose between quality and success and human nature being what it is, the directors who control the game behind the scenes put results first.

Inevitably, the coach (and indirectly his players) are all aware of the pressures that build up following an unsuccessful period. With his job hanging in the balance the coach reorganises his team to put more emphasis on defence . . . to avoid defeat . . . while the players put more physical effort into the game.

ACCLAIM

It cannot be denied that what the public wants is success, but it is also clear that while success and goals will bring in the crowds, they will not necessarily bring wide acclaim.

At national level there are examples of teams which play *real* football and make it pay. Saint Etienne in France, Spartak Trnava in Czechoslovakia, Ujpest Dozsa in Hungary and Gornik Zabrze in Poland have been able to obtain consistently good results from playing football. But in the international arena all these clubs have failed to make any deep or lasting impression on the game.

For almost ten years the game has needed a new giant, a new team which is successful at international level but obtains their success as a result of constructive attacking football. And to have a real and lasting effect this team must be successful at the highest level over a period of at least two or three seasons.

Ideally it should be an international team which is so superior to all their rivals that they win the World Cup twice in succession.

The World Cup is without doubt the most widely publicised, closely followed competition of them all, with world-wide coverage of all the top games on TV. If the new champions of football are to have a lasting effect it must come at this level. But the big question that has yet to be answered is: "Where will this new super-team come from?"

DESIRABLE

I have no doubt that the country best placed to create this new desirable image for football is Hungary who have never yet been influenced by the currently successful "physical" teams. The Hungarians have the incentive too for the pathetic performances of Ferencvaros in the European Cup combined with the humiliation and elimination of their World Cup team has made everyone in Hungary aware that changes must be made. Hungary are now at the very same point that England were in December 1953, when the Hungarians beat England at Wembley. This defeat combined with the 7-1 scoreline from Budapest a few months later, created the circumstances which made it possible for changes to be introduced in the British game.

At the time, the English were in despair, just as the Hungarians are now, but while many Hungarians will be tempted to follow the example of the currently successful teams, I doubt if they will. Indeed I pray they will not, for more than the prestige of Hungarian football is at stake. The world as a whole needs a new great team to follow and in Budapest there exists all the essential ingredients. They have the talent, they have the coaches and now at last they have the incentive to re-shape their game.

Atletico Bilbao Story—*conclusion*

by

NORMAN CUTLER

ALLEN and the VASCO PRESS

RONNIE ALLEN — and President Oraa—rebuilt the sliding Atletico Bilbao league side in six short months. It was a football miracle in view of the alarming decline of the club's fortunes since 1956. Ronnie Allen said: "We (the club and public) did it alone," meaning, significantly, without the support of the local Vasco press.

The truth of the widely reported and exaggerated breach between club and press, obtained from my talks with both president and manager, is simple and clear.

The Bilbao board decided to reconstruct the club on English lines. No English club allows players to give press interviews without managerial clearance, so it was agreed to adopt the same policy at Bilbao.

In any case had Ronnie Allen been lukewarm about making such a revolutionary change for Spain so soon—which he wasn't—the impossible conditions he found on arrival would have altered his mind.

For years it had been the custom at Atletico Bilbao for journalists, photographers and others to mill around the dressing room before a match, during the interval and afterwards. On match and training days the dressing room was, in fact, a social centre.

Allen found, not surprisingly, that such intrusion upset the players, handicapped the manager and interfered with match preparation.

QUESTIONS

To quote a few problems: Players found difficulty in limbering up and were made nervous by incessant questions and feeble conversation. The manager had no opportunity of giving last-minute match instructions and no chance to change tactics or give pep talks during the interval. The trainer was impeded in his work and unable to give satisfactory attention to injuries during half-time. And ... after match cross-examination of tensed-up players by journalists brought ill-considered on the spot opinions and comments which reflected upon club and players alike.

"The whole set-up was a shambles," was how Ronnie described it.

In view of this situation the Board and Allen evoked Rule 94 of the Football Federation of Spain's regulations "prohibiting all unauthorised persons from entering the dressing rooms, at all times, except directors and Federation members".

It was not unreasonable ... and later the same FA regulation was implemented by other clubs.

But what upset the Vasco press more than anything else was what reporters describe as "the banning of free diffusion of information" ... i.e. interviews with players. The truth is that *no player was ever banned from talking to the press* ... merely that before giving interviews permission must be obtained from the manager.

The differences first arose during the season's inaugural press conference given by president and manager. Allen explained that he would always be available—except during actual training sessions—to answer any questions the press required answering. "All the news and information I have is available to the press at any time," he said.

Came the vital question: "Can we interview players?"

Allen answered: "Yes ... but you must first ask permission of the manager. I assure you that there will be no difficulties or problems, except when a player's relations with the club are concerned and where an interview would be detrimental to the club's interests or the player's private life."

It was the qualification to which the press took exception. They didn't want to seek permission ... felt it an intrusion of *their* rights ... and demanded free interchange between player and reporter at all times and on all subjects.

When Allen, with President and Board's support, refused to give way on the "exception" proviso, the Bilbao press broke relations and declared vacations as far as the club and its activities were concerned. And Allen, of course, took the full blame.

Let me, in fairness, clarify this point. The deadlock concerns only the *local press*. The national newspapers, sports papers and the press of towns visited by Atletico Bilbao hold nothing against the club or Allen. On the contrary Allen's views are sought, and freely given, wherever he goes. So are the President's. And, to his credit, Ronnie Allen has kept to his decision and fulfilled his word. Interviews with full-back Echeberria, internationals Iribar and Rojo, the brilliant Clemente and others have appeared in the national and sporting press.

Recently President Oraa was asked: "Don't you think that for everyone's sake, the problem should be solved?" He replied: "Yes indeed. But the initiative is with the press. The club is always ready to co-operate with everyone in the interests of the game."

In view of the dearth of news about the club public reaction might well have been a problem. Instead supporters clubs and general public lined up enthusiastically behind Atletico Bilbao and Allen, as seen by their methods of expressing loyalty.

Boxes of matches bearing the slogans "Ronnie, we are with you" ... "Atletico for Ever" ... "Allen, Yes. Press, No" ... are sold in the shops; cars with stickers carrying the same sentiments are seen everywhere in the city streets, and at every match similar encouraging banners appear. Measures spontaneously inspired by the club's supporters.

This then is how the situation remains. The club standing firm on its policy ... the Vasco press still fighting for the somewhat encroaching principle they call "free information without managerial interference".

GYMNASIUM

Although all this started as a local rumpus, its effects are being felt elsewhere. Seville's Max Merkel has introduced the "no talking without permission" rule ... Real Mallorca have evoked Rule 94 ... the press are a little worried ... and considerable thinking is going on in higher circles.

With the League side sails set for triumph—if not the Championship, credit and prestige—the Board have already begun implementing other phases of the reconstruction.

The most important is what Allen calls "co-ordination of player development". Work is already well under way on his central training centre which will include three full-size playing pitches (two all-weather) ... a special gymnasium ... ultra-modern infirmary facilities and equipment ... lecture rooms ... private cinema, etc.

Land has been acquired eight miles from San Mames by road ... but when a new Corporation mountain tunnel is completed, that distance will be cut to three miles. The initial cost will be 36 million pesetas (£216,000), but with 40,000 attendances at each home game Atletico are one of the few clubs not short of money. An interesting—and perhaps unique in the world—fact, is that although San Mames holds 42,000, the club's membership is close on 25,000, an idea of the support Atletico receive.

The training staff has been increased to six and a team of scouts appointed. Allen intends to find promising players and juveniles and develop them through various stages until they reach League standard. Already he has 150 under his care. Allen's point of view is: "So many have obviously been lost and neglected because of the gap between juvenile and other levels ... the lack of continuous development ... and the absence of an overall plan in modern methods of training and coaching."

How long will all this take? "If we see results in three years I shall be more than satisfied," says President Oraa. "Sooner than that," insists Ronnie. And he might well be right. His juvenile side has already won the Provincial title ... scoring 89 goals, four against, in 15 matches.

It's a farsighted plan. Perhaps not all that new to the great clubs of the world, but amazingly revolutionary for Spain.

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Lee, my choice but who else?

THE nearer the World Cup comes, the more obvious it grows that there is no clear favourite. England's dreary displays at Wembley have lost them friends, goaded their supporters into irate choruses of "What a load of rubbish!" and cast doubts on their possibilities of qualifying from the Guadalajara group, let alone of retaining the trophy. Yet what team has established itself as being measurably better?

Brazil? Hardly. Though they had good news in February when Tostao was cleared to play, after his eye operation, it remains to be seen whether he will recover his form for Mexico. Jairzinho, England's other destroyer in Rio last June, has been out of form and favour this year. The measure of Brazil's goalkeeping crisis lies in the fact that neither of the goalkeepers chosen by Joao Saldanha in his 22 had ever played for his country; and remembering the pitiful anxiety of the relatively experienced Manga in 1966, against Portugal, it seems most doubtful that either can be properly tempered in time.

IMPRESSION

There are further problems at centre-half, a doubt about who should be the linking half-back, an impression that Pelé will have to play remarkably well if Brazil are going to justify all the faith that has so far been placed on them. It seems to have its basis in their past record, and in the fact that they will be playing in familiar Latin-American sunshine; though not, pray remember, at a familiar altitude.

The **Italians** look wonderfully good on paper, but it is still hard to believe in a team which tends to wane so pitifully when it is far from home. For the sake of that admirably modest and efficient fellow Ferruccio Valcareggi, their team coach, I hope they do well. But v the **Uruguayans**, with the fearsome Montero-Castillo, scourge of the Chileans, in midfield, are just the kind of team who are likely to upset them. Keep a weather eye on the **Swedes** in this group.

The slower pace at which the game is likely to be played could suit their heavy, rather ponderous defenders, while in attack they can call on two of the world's most coveted forwards in Roger Magnusson and Kindvall. It seems that both are quite likely to change clubs in the summer. Certainly Magnusson won't stay with Olimpique Marseilles, to whom he has merely been on loan from Juventus, after previous peregrinations which took him to Turin, for one season, as reserve de luxe, and Cologne for another. Not that Magnusson is even sure of his place in the Swedish attack; Grahn may be preferred.

There is no doubt of Kindvall's place. Indeed, he became last year only the second Swedish footballer ever to be voted Sweden's sportsman of the year. I was intrigued to see that the other was their famous inside-forward Sven Rydell, still fit as a flea when he played at the age of 54 for the Swedish Press against the British Press at Gothenburg in 1958. I remember trying to catch him. . . .

DISGUSTED

The Footballer of the Year for 1970 will, I hope, be Francis Lee, much the most exciting English talent to have emerged since the 1966 World Cup. I put him second on my list of five European Footballers of the Year in the annual FRANCE FOOTBALL ballot, and was astonished and a little disgusted to see that no one else had picked him even among the first five.

I have written before in these columns on the (highly) relative value if that European Poll; in 1969, it seemed to me more thoroughly exposed than ever as a mere, marginal diversion. Not that I have anything to say against the choice of Gianni Rivera as Player of the Year, even if he did not appear in my own list.

I have known and admired Rivera since he was a wonderfully mature 16-year-old, just transferred from Alessandria to Milan. His success will no doubt console him for the persistent, sometimes vindictive, criticism he has had to face over the years, in Italy. Recently, he complained strongly about it in a profile programme on Italian television. The ironic thing is that he may well fail to keep his place in the Italian national side for the World Cup, so well did Sandrino Mazzola take it against East Germany, in Naples.

Mazzola has with some justice observed that you cannot play both

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LOOKING AT SOCCER

Steve Peplow of Liverpool pictured in a tussle with Jackie Charlton. (A)

him and Rivera in the same attack. In June, 1968, Mazzola, playing in midfield, played an outstanding part, especially in the first half, in Italy's victory over Yugoslavia in the replayed European Nations Cup Final at the Stadio Olimpico.

EPIDEMIC

But to revert to *France Football*'s poll, the fatuity of the whole enterprise seemed to me to be underlined by a strange, epidemic, preference for ... Jackie Charlton. My colleague Hans Blickensdorfer, of West Germany, put him second to Riva, calling him, with Fran Beckenbauer, "a *libero* (sweeper) of exceptional class". I have always admired Charlton's power, determination, intelligence and combativity, but he has always, so far as I know, played stopper centre-half, rather than *libero*, and exceptional class is something which was given not to him but to his brother.

On the Greek list, Jackie figures in third place—he is, says Angelos Fountoukidis, "Mr. Leeds". Well, Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles might have something to say in that connection. The Spanish representative, Vicente Salaner, also puts Jack Charlton in third place — "the pillar of Leeds". Thus he took tenth place in the poll, after a year which was beyond doubt much inferior to his best, in which he played for England only when Brian Labone was unavailable, and demonstrated, by and large, the fact that he is now coming into his middle thirties.

I mean no disrespect for an excellent player, one who, when he became British Footballer of the Year, thoroughly deserved the honour. But Charlton in 1969 was not Charlton in 1966/7, and the esteem he found among several European critics simply emphasises their ignorance of the British game, and the basic irrelevance of the poll in which they voted.

* * *

It seems to me that one essential modification we must implement during the 70s, and the earlier the better, is to reduce the size of our League divisions. As Sir Stanley Rous remarked to me, it really doesn't matter if you have fixe or six divisions, provided they are of a manageable size which, at First Division level, allows clubs to release their players to become internationals.

ABOLITION

It is perfectly clear, now that the effects of the abolition of the maximum wage have had time to make themselves felt, that the English First Division is too large. On the other hand, it is tantalisingly difficult to know just where to draw the line. Thus, at one stage this season it seemed very likely that the two clubs to go down would be Sunderland and Sheffield Wednesday. Yet by any logical analysis, both of these are natural aristocrats of the game, clubs with a great past and immense potential in the future. If both have fallen on evil times, poor administration rather than lack of resources and viability must be to blame.

On the other hand, there is even less to be said for Crystal Palace as a First Division club, alas, than there was for Queen's Park Rangers. The implication seems to be that London can sustain four First Division clubs, and no more. Southampton and Ipswich Town, though each has considerably more to be said for it than Crystal Palace or QPR, are other teams which appear better suited to the Second than the First Division—on grounds of economic potential.

At present, with the Football League Cup further serving to clutter the lists, footballers are made to play far too often. Look at the trouble poor Ron Davies of Southampton has had this season with an injured left groin which has cried out for one thing above all—rest. The First Division should be limited to a maximum of 18 clubs, and I'm not sure that 16 wouldn't be a more suitable complement.

GROUP ONE

October 12, 1968

Switzerland (1) 1 (Quentin) 35,778
Greece (0) 0

Switzerland: Grob; Ramseier, Stierli (P.); Odermatt, Michaud (Guggisberg), Tacchella; Vuilleumier, Durr, Kunzli, Kuhn, Quentin.

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Kamaras, Gaitatzis; Ballopoulos, Zanderoglou, Karafeskos; Chaitas, Sideris, Papaioannou, Domazos, Dedes (Youdsos).

(Ref.: A. Boogaerts/Holland).

October 27, 1968

Portugal (2) 3 (Jacinto Santos, Jacinto Joao)
Rumania (0) 0 32,222

Portugal: Americo; Jacinto Santos, Hilario; Graca, Rui Rodrigues (Humberto Coelho); Jose Carlos; Jose Augusto, Coluna, Figueiredo, Eusebio, Simoes (Jacinto Joao).

Rumania: Coman (Gornea); Satmareanu, Mocanu; Gherghell, Dimitru, Dinu; Pircalab, Dobrin, Dembrovski, Petescu, Lucescu.

(Ref.: Leo Callaghan/Wales).

November 23, 1968

Rumania (0) 2 (Dumitrache, Domide) 18,854
Switzerland (0) 0

Rumania: Gornea; Satmareanu, Mocanu; Gherghell, Boc, Dinu, Martinovici (Dembrovski), Domide, Dumitrache, Nunweiler, Lucescu.

Switzerland: Grob; Ramseier, Stierli (P.); Tacchella, Michaud, Citherlet (Brenna); Vuilleumier, Durr, Kunzli, Kuhn, Quentin.

(Ref.: Nejat Sener/Istanbul).

December 11, 1968

Greece (2) 4 (Sideris 2, Torres o.g., Dedes)
Portugal (1) 2 (Eusebio, Jose Augusto) 36,750

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Kamaras, Gaitatzis; Karafeskos, Ballopoulos, Chalinbalias; Botinos (Dedes), Papaioannou, Sideris, Domazos, Koudas.

Portugal: Americo; Jacinto Santos, Hilario; Rolando, Armando (Raul), Jose Carlos; Jose Augusto (Jacinto Joao), Eusebio, Torres, Coluna, Simoes.

(Ref.: Gerhard Schulenburg/W. Germany).

October 12, 1969

Rumania (1) 1 (Dobrin) 80,000
Portugal (0) 0

Rumania: Raducanu; Satmareanu, Deleanu; Nunweiler, Dan Coe, Halmageanu; Dembrovski, Dobrin, Dumitrache, Dinu, Lucescu.

Portugal: Damas; Pedro Gomes, Hilario; Jose Maria (Toni), Baptista, Humberto Coelho; Nelson, Goncalves, Torres (Jacinto Joao), Eusebio, Simoes.

(Ref.: Canac/Yugoslavia).

October 15, 1969

Greece (3) 4 (Koudas, Botinos 2, Sideris)
Switzerland (0) 1 (Kunzli) 57,000

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Gaitatzis, Stathopoulos; Chaitas, Kamaras, Spyridion; Koudas, Sideris (Dedes), Papaioannou, Domazos, Botinos (Sarafis).

Switzerland: Prosperi; Ramseier, Perroud; Odermatt, Tacchella, Michaud (Balmer); Chapuisat, Kuhn, Kunzli, Blattler.

(Ref.: Schiller/Austria).

November 2, 1969

Switzerland (0) 1 (Kunzli) 30,000
Portugal (1) 1 (Eusebio)

Switzerland: Prosperi; Chapuisat, Ramseier; Guggisberg, Guyot, Perroud; Jeandupeux (Brenna), Ruegg (Odermatt), Kunzli, Vuilleumier, Kuhn.

Portugal: Damas; Conceicao, Hilario; Tome, Humberto Coelho, Rui Rodrigues; Rolando (Goncalves), Simoes, Guerreiro, Eusebio, Peres (Marinho).

(Ref.: Bo Nilsson/Sweden).

November 16, 1969

Rumania (1) 1 (Dembrovski) 90,000
Greece (0) 1 (Domazos)

Rumania: Radacanu; Satmareanu, Deleanu; Dinu, Halmageanu, Dan Coe; Dembrovski, Dobrin, Dumitrache, Nunweiler, Lucescu.

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Gaitatzis, Dimitriou; Domazos, Kamaras, Spyridion; Koudas, Sideris, Papaioannou, Chaitas, Eleftheakis.

(Ref.: John Adair/Northern Ireland).

April 16, 1969

Portugal (0) 0 9,324
Switzerland (2) 2 (Vuilleumier 2)

Portugal: Damas; Conceicao, Hilario; Rolando, Humberto Coelho, Jose Carlos; Simoes, Peres, Torres, Eusebio, Jacinto Joao.

Switzerland: Prosperi; Ramseier, Stierli (P.); Odermatt, Michaud, Tacchella; Signorelli, Kunzli, Quentin, Kuhn, Vuilleumier.

(Ref.: Jack Taylor/England).

April 16, 1969

Greece (0) 2 (Sideris, Dedes) 37,039
Rumania (0) 2 (Dumitrache 2)

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Kamaras, Gaitatzis; Karafeskos (Youtsos), Zanderoglou (Kremidas), Ballopoulos; Dedes, Chaitas, Sideris, Papaioannou, Botinos.

Rumania: Raducanu; Satmareanu, Deleanu; Gherghell, Dinu, Boc; Dembrovski, Ionescu, Dumitrache, Dan Coe, Lucescu.

(Ref.: Antonio Sbardella/Italy).

May 4, 1969

Portugal (0) 2 (Eusebio, Peres) 6,221
Greece (0) 2 (Botinos, Eleftheakis)

Portugal: Damas; Conceicao, Carrico; Jacinto Santos (Manuel Antonio), Manuel Pinto, Joaquim Jorge; Custodio Pinto, Rolando, Eusebio, Peres, Jacinto Joao (Figueiredo).

Greece: Ikonomopoulos; Gaitatzis, Kremidas; Eleftheakis, Intzoglou (Dedes), Ballopoulos; Papaioannou, Koudas (Botinos), Sideris, Domazos, Chaitas.

Ref.: Ollonceif Ben Ali/Tunisia).

May 14, 1969

Switzerland (0) 0 28,466
Rumania (1) 1 (Michaud o.g.)

Switzerland: Prosperi; Ramseier, Chapuisat; Odermatt, Tacchella, Michaud; Signorelli (Firmin Stierli), Kunzli, Quentin, Kuhn, Vuilleumier.

Rumania: Raducanu; Satmareanu, Deleanu (Halmageanu); Nunweiler VI, Boc, Dan Coe; Dembrovski, Tufan, Dumitrache, Dinu, Lucescu.

(Ref.: Tom Wharton/Scotland).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Rumania	6	3	2	1	7	6	8
Greece	6	2	3	1	13	9	7
Switzerland	6	2	1	3	5	8	5
Portugal	6	1	2	3	8	10	4

GROUP TWO

September 25, 1968

Denmark (0) 0 30,258
Czechoslovakia (2) 3 (Jokl, Kuna, Hagara)

Denmark: Engedahl; Larsen (J.), Jensen (Munk); Enemark, Yde, Lund; Wiberg, Mortensen, Jensen (B.), Printzlau, Le Fevre.

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Dobias, Hagara; Szikora, Plass, Horvath; Jokl, Kuna, Adamec, Vesely (B.), Capkovic (Jan).

(Ref.: Martti Hirvisaari/Finland).

October 20, 1968

Czechoslovakia (0) 1 (Jokl) 14,249
Denmark (0) 0

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Dobias, Hagara; Horvath, Plass, Szikora; Vesely (B.), Jokl, Kuna, Adamec (Geleta), Kabat.

Denmark: Engedahl; Larsen (J.), Leif Sorensen; Henning Jensen, Yde, Enemark; Mortensen, Wiberg-Larsen, Jensen (B.), Ole Sorensen, Le Fevre.

(Ref.: Anton Bucholi/Lucerne).

May 4, 1969

Eire (1) 1 (Rogers) 23,555
Czechoslovakia (0) 2 (Kabat, Adamec)

Eire: Kelly; Brennan, Dempsey; Hurley, Mulligan, Giles; Finucane, O'Neill, Leech (Hand), Treacy, Rogers.

Czechoslovakia: Vencel; Dobias, Hagara; Horvath, Plass, Szikora (Hrdlicka); Vesely (B.), Jurkanin, Kvasnak, Adamec, Kabat.

(Ref.: Soldonha Ribeiro/Portugal).

May 25, 1969

Hungary (1) 2 (Dunai A., Albert) 75,000
Czechoslovakia (0) 0

Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Kaposzta, Nosko (Farkas); Szucs, Meszoly, Pancsics; Szoke (Fazekas), Bene, Albert, Antal Dunai, Zambo.

Czechoslovakia: Vencel; Dobias (Pivarnik), Szikora; Zlocha, Plass, Horvath; Vesely (B.), Kuna, Adamec, Kabat, Jokl.

(Ref.: Aurel Bentu/Bucharest).

May 27, 1969

Denmark (1) 2 (Ole Sorensen 2) 27,000
Eire (0) 0

Denmark: Engedahl; Larsen (J.), Nielsen (T.); Andersen, Munk Jensen, Moller; Leif Sorensen, Bent Jensen, Ole Madsen, Ole Sorensen, Le Fevre.

Eire: Kelly; Brennan, Mulligan; Rogers, Finucane, Dempsey (Dunne); Newman, Leech, Givens, Dunphy, Treacy.

(Ref.: Sergey Arkhipov/Russia).

June 8, 1969

Eire (0) 1 (Givens) 20,000
Hungary (1) 2 (Dunai, Bene)

Eire: Kelly; Brennan, Dunne; Conway, Finucane, Mulligan; Dunphy, Leech, Hurley (O'Neill), Rogers, Givens.

Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Kaposzta, Ihasz; Zambo, Meszoly, Szucs; Bene, Gorocs, Antal Dunai, Kozma (Farkas), Albert.

(Ref.: Vital Loraux/Belgium).

June 15, 1969

Denmark (2) 3 (Ole Sorensen, Le Fevre, Ole Madsen) 50,600
Hungary (2) 2 (Bene, Farkas)

Denmark: Engedahl; Larsen (J.), Nielsen (T.); Michaelsen, Munk Jensen, Moller; Bent Jensen, Ole Sorensen, Ole Madsen, Leif Sorensen, Le Fevre.

Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Kaposzta, Juhasz; Szucs, Meszoly, Pancsics; Bene, Gorocs, Albert (Zambo), Antal Dunai (Ede Dunai), Farkas.

(Ref.: K. Sirevaag/Norway).

Derek Dougan, of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Northern Ireland, is beaten in the air by John Talbut of West Bromwich Albion in the First Division match this season. (A)

EXICO 1970

COMMENCING THIS MONTH "WORLD SOCCER" PRESENTS THE RESULTS, LINE-UPS AND ATTENDANCES OF ALL THE QUALIFYING ROUND MATCHES IN THE 1970 WORLD CUP COMPETITION.

compiled by MICK CHANDLER

September 14, 1969

Czechoslovakia (1) 3 (Hagara, Kvasnak, Kuna) 40,000
Hungary (2) 3 (Bene, Antal Dunai, Fazekas)

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Hagara; Szikora (Pollak), Pluss (Hrivnak), Horvath; Vesely (B.), Kvasnak, Adamec, Kuna, Jan Capkovic.
Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Kaposzta, Ihasz; Szucs, Meszoly (Juhasz), Panesios; Fazekas (Puskas), Gorocs, Bene, Antal Dunai, Zambo.
(Ref.: K. Tschenscher/W. Germany).

October 7, 1969

Czechoslovakia (3) 3 (Adamec 3) 36,000
Eire (0) 0

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Hagara; Kvasnak, Migas, Horvath; Vesely (B.), Jurkanin, Adamec, Kuna, Kabat.
Eire: Fitzpatrick; Kinnear, Brennan; Mulligan, Carroll, Finucane; Conroy, Conway, Givens, Hale, Cosmy.
(Ref.: Lo Bello/Italy).

October 15, 1969

Eire (1) 1 (Givens) 20,000
Denmark (0) 1 (Bent Jensen)

Eire: Kelly; Kinnear, Brennan; Mulligan, Byrne, Conway; Dunphy, Rogers, Conroy, Givens, Treacy.
Denmark: Paulsen; Larsen (J.), Nielsen (T.); Moller, Munk Jensen, Thorst; Michaelsen, Bent Jensen, Andersen, Praest, Roemer.

October 22, 1969

Hungary (2) 3 (Bene 2, Szucs) 35,000
Denmark (0) 0

Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Keleman, Ihasz; Halmosi, Panesics, Szucs; Fazekas, Kocsis, Bene, Korma, Zambo.
Denmark: Paulsen; Larsen (J.), Nielsen (T.); Michaelsen, Munk Jensen, Moller; Thorst, Nielsen (E.), Ole Madsen, Bent Jensen, Larsen (R.).
(Ref.: Ott/W. Germany).

November 5, 1969

Hungary (1) 4 (Halmosi, Bene, Puskas, Kocsis)
Eire (0) 0 30,000

Hungary: Tamas; Keleman, Ihasz; Halmosi, Pancsics, Szucs; Fazekas, Gorocs (Kocsis), Bene, Antal Dunai (Puskas), Zambo.
Eire: Kelly; Brennan, Dunne; Conway, Dempsey, Mulligan; Rogers, Conroy (Treacy), Givens, Dunphy, Kinnear.
(Ref.: Jakse/Yugoslavia).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Czechoslovakia	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Hungary	6	4	1	1	16	7	9
Denmark	6	2	1	3	6	10	5
Eire	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

December 3, 1969
(play-off in Marseilles)

Czechoslovakia (1) 4 (Kvasnak pen., Vesely, Adamec, Jokl) 8,000
Hungary (0) 1 (Kocsis pen.)

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Hagara; Petras, Migas, Horvath; Vesely (F.), Kuna (Pollak), Adamec, Kvasnak, Jokl.
Hungary: Szentmihalyi; Keleman, Ihasz; Halmosi, Meszoly, Noako; Fazekas, Gorocs (Kocsis), Bene, Farkas (Puskas), Zambo.
(Ref.: Machin/France).

GROUP THREE

October 23, 1968

Wales (0) 0 18,558
Italy (1) 1 (Riva)

Wales: Millington; Thomas, Williams (G.), Powell, Burton, Hole; Rees, Davies (W.), Davies (R.), Green, Jones (C.).
Italy: Zoff; Burgnich, Facchetti; Rosato, Salvadore, Castano; Domenghini, Rivera, Anastasi, De Sisti, Riva.
(Ref.: Joaquim Campos/Portugal).

March 9, 1969

East Germany (1) 2 (Vogel, Kreische) 60,000
Italy (0) 2 (Riva 2)

East Germany: Croy; Fraessdorf, Bransch; Korner, Urbanczyk, Seehaus; Lowe, Noldner (Stein), Frenzel, Kreische, Vogel.
Italy: Zoff; Burgnich, Facchetti; Castano, Salvadore, Bertini; Rivera, Prati, Mazzola, De Sisti, Riva.
(Ref.: Einar Bostrom/Sweden).

April 16, 1969

East Germany (1) 2 (Lowe, Rock) 45,000
Wales (0) 1 (England)

East Germany: Croy; Fraessdorf, Urbanczyk; Seehaus, Bransch, Korner; Lowe (Rock), Stein, Frenzel, Kreische, Vogel.
Wales: Millington; Rodrigues, Burton; Hennessey, England, Hole; Jones (B.), Durban, Mahoney, Toshack, Rees.
(Ref.: Franz Gelsck/Belgium).

October 22, 1969

Wales (0) 1 (Powell) 20,000
East Germany (0) 3 (Vogel, Lowe, Frenzel)

Wales: Sprake; Rodrigues, Thomas; Hennessey, England, Powell; Rees, Durban, Krzywicki, Davies (W.), Toshack.
East Germany: Croy; Fraessdorf, Urbanczyk; Korner, Bransch, Seehaus; Lowe, Stein, Frenzel, Irmscher, Vogel.
(Ref.: Machin/France).

November 5, 1969

Italy (1) 4 (Riva 3, Mazzola) 90,000
Wales (0) 1 (England)

Italy: Albertosi; Burgnich, Facchetti; Bertini (Juliano), Puia, Salvadore; Domenghini, Rivera, Anastasi (Mazzola), De Sisti, Riva.
Wales: Sprake; Thomas, Derrett; Durban, England, Moore (G.); Toshack, Yorath, Krzywicki, Hole, Rees (Reece).
(Ref.: Betchirov/Bulgaria).

November 22, 1969

Italy (3) 3 (Mazzola, Domenghini, Riva) 80,000
East Germany (0) 0

Italy: Zoff; Burgnich, Facchetti; Cera (Juliano), Puia, Salvadore; Chiarugi, Mazzola, Domenghini, De Sisti, Riva.
East Germany: Croy; Fraessdorf (Rock), Urbanczyk; Seehaus, Bransch, Korner; Stein, Lowe (Ducke), Frenzel, Irmscher, Vogel.
(Ref.: Schiller/Austria).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Italy	4	3	1	0	10	3	7
East Germany	4	2	1	1	7	7	5
Wales	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

GROUP FOUR

October 23, 1968

Northern Ireland (1) 4 (Best, McMordie, Dougan, Campbell) 38,363
Turkey (1) 1 (Ogun)

Northern Ireland: Jennings; Craig (Stewart), Harvey; Nicholson, Neill, Clements; Campbell, McMordie, Dougan, Irvine, Best.
Turkey: Nihat; Sakru, Necdet; Ismail, Ercan, Yilmax; Mesut (Abdullah), Sanli, Ogun, Can Bartu, Ender.
(Ref.: W. J. M. Schalks/Holland).

December 11, 1968

Turkey (0) 0 19,110
Northern Ireland (1) 3 (Harkin 2, Nicholson)

Turkey: Ali; Talat, Huseyin; Ercan, Egun, Sanli; Ayhan, Ogun, Fevzi, Metin, Faruk.
Northern Ireland: Jennings; Craig, Harvey; Stewart, Neill, Nicholson; Hamilton, McMordie, Dougan, Harkin, Clements.
(Ref.: Zaalin Bouganif/Algeria).

Gary Sprake, goalkeeper of Leeds United and Wales. Sprake played in two of his country's World Cup qualifying round matches. (A)

September 10, 1969

Northern Ireland (0) 0 36,000
Russia (0) 0

Northern Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Elder; Nicholson, Neill, Todd; Campbell, McMordie, Dougan, Clements (Jackson), Best.
Russia: Rudakov; Lowtschew, Dsodsuaschvili; Kaplitschni, Shesternev, Khurtsilava; Muntjan, Kiselley, Pusatsch, Kmelnitski (Elvruchtkin), Khusainov.
(Ref.: Kitabdjian/France).

October 15, 1969

Russia (1) 3 (Muntjan 2, Nodija) 100,000
Turkey (0) 0

Russia: Rudakov; Dsodsuaschvili, Lowtschew; Kaplitschni, Shesternev, Serebrainnikov; Muntjan, Asatiani, Gerschkovitsch, Byshovets, Nodija.
Turkey: Sabri; Mehmet, Ercan; Yilmaz, Ergun, Kamuran; Ayhan, Can Bartu, Sanli, Metin, Ender.

October 22, 1969

Russia (1) 2 (Nodija, Byshovets) 100,000
Northern Ireland (0) 0

Russia: Rudakov; Dsodsuaschvili, Lowtschew; Kaplitschni, Shesternev, Serebrainnikov; Muntjan, Asatiani, Gerschkovitsch, Byshovets, Nodija.
Northern Ireland: Jennings; Craig, Harvey; Hunter, Neill, Nicholson; Hegan, Jackson, Dougan, Harkin, Clements.
(Ref.: Scheurer/Switzerland).

November 16, 1969

Turkey (1) 1 (Ender) 35,000
Russia (2) 3 (Asatiani 2, Kmelnitski)

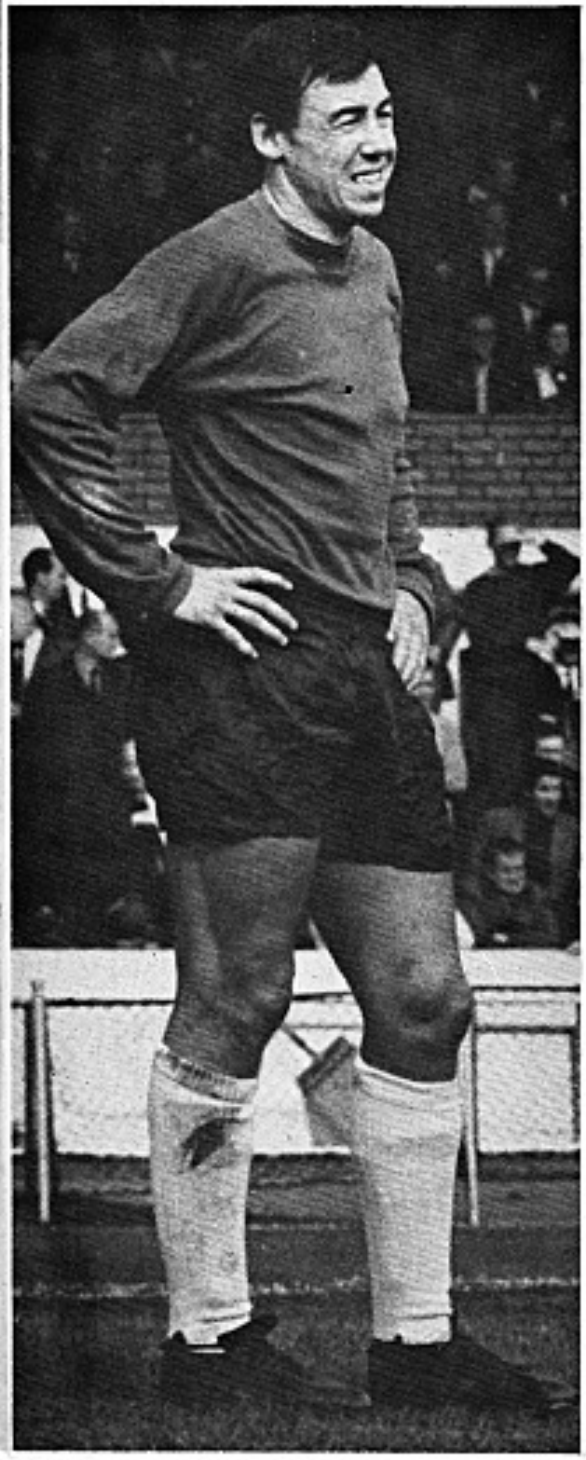
Turkey: Ali; Ayhan, Ercan; Yilmaz, Ergun, Kamuran; Elmastaoglu Ayhan, Nihat, Can Bartu, Metin, Ender.
Russia: Kavasaschvili; Dsodsuaschvili, Lowtschew; Khurtsilava, Shesternev, Serebrainnikov; Muntjan, Asatiani, Byshovets, Kmelnitski, Nodija.
(Ref.: Marschall/Austria).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Russia	4	3	1	0	8	1	7
Northern Ireland	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
Turkey	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

The standard of goalkeeping was poor in 1966

Will it be better in Mexico this year?

Banks and Bonetti are outstanding . . .



GORDON BANKS. (A)

PERHAPS the saddest single facet of the 1966 World Cup Finals was the near-abysmal standard of the goalkeeping. Apart from Banks and Mazurkewicz, of Uruguay, there were few goalkeepers who did not at one stage or another make a catastrophic goalkeeping error — an amalgam of bad judgement, poor technique and extreme nervousness.

Tilkowski's displays for West Germany, in particular his play during the Final itself, had several nightmarish moments, and although it may be argued that he should never have played in the Final, he had made some catastrophic errors in the earlier rounds of the competition; both the Hungarian goalkeepers on display—Gelei and Szentimihalyi—failed to cut out crosses that seemed simple enough to reach; both Manga and Gilmar showed almost clownish nervousness under the Brazilian crossbar; and there were others who deserve to be mentioned in the same depressing context.

Inevitably there were those commentators who tried to explain such antics in rather simplistic terms. The argument, briefly summarised, was simply that in the context of much modern football, where defensive play by the backs has been perfected to an art, the role of the goalkeeper has become less important. He has less direct shots to save, he is made to feel less vital in the defensive make-up of a team and so on. The argument is both trite and erroneous. And those people who like to think in such terms were those who failed to face the simple possibility that in fact the goalkeepers on parade in the last World Cup were, as a breed, below international standard.

It may be that we in the British Isles, served well in goal by a whole clutch of excellent goalkeepers, are inclined to be rather harsh when in judgement on the performances of goalkeepers from the Continent and from Latin America. Both England's current goalkeepers, Banks and Bonetti, have shown themselves not merely agile, but also masters of good judgement in cutting out crosses, in intelligent distribution, in complete understanding with their defenders—in short they both give the impression of being in control of the game whenever it moves into their own penalty area, and the sort of confidence they exude is guaranteed to help the players in front of them. Add to their names those of Shilton, Jennings, Sprake and company, and you see the reason for the complacency that most British commentators and players feel towards the art of goalkeeping in these islands.

And this is the point. It may well be true that modern goalkeepers are less frequently forced into making fingertip saves from scorching shots, and it may be true even that the number of attempts at goal has diminished in, say, the last 15 years. But such statistics, even if available, miss the point—namely that goalkeeping is an art that has changed through the years, has constantly had to adapt itself to different styles of play where different techniques have become more important. Latin football fans are always more impressed by actual saves in front of goal than by the host of protective techniques that goalkeepers now use to prevent direct shooting, and the amount of applause accorded to the cutting out of a dangerous cross is seldom more than minimal.

Feature by PHILIP EVANS

EXAGGERATE

Why the art of goalkeeping should seem important and increasingly vital is a question that will probably be answered in June. At sea level all the goalkeeper has to worry about is the form of the opposition and occasionally the behaviour of the crowd behind his goal. In Mexico the lightness and the clarity of the air will add further problems of their own and help to exaggerate the importance of the problems that already exist.

Agility will certainly be at a premium, for the lightness of the air is certain to affect the speed with which the ball is moved and players who are famous for their long-range drives, such as Charlton, Rocha and Domenghini will certainly be encouraged to fire at goal from long distances and hope to catch the goalkeeper unawares. If Charlton can only reproduce a few of the shots which he threw against the Mexicans in 1966 then England's chances of scoring will be markedly improved.

Then there is the question of free-kicks. Roger Macdonald was right to criticise England's defence against the taking of free-kicks in the recent match against Portugal. All we learned from these was that Bonetti is a goalkeeper of considerable agility and that the England defensive "wall" is neither wide enough to be effective as a barrier nor well-enough thought-out to prove of much use in Mexico where the team can expect to come up against several dead-ball specialists who know all the tricks of the banana-kick trade. The point must also be made that any players contributing towards the formation of a wall must be prepared to stand tightly together and not flinch at all. There are several players with ferocious shooting powers on parade in Mexico and the slightest glimpse of a weakness in the defensive wall will encourage them to take a fearsome drive straight at goal without indulging in any fineries and special effects.

OPPORTUNISTS

Look at the question of corners and complications also arise. The Mexican sun is hot and the clarity of the air will make judgement on high crosses extremely difficult to perfect. Whether we shall see much orthodox wing play remains to be seen, but even if the angle facing the goalkeeper is less acute as a result of the crosses stemming from attacks by defensive players, there will still be usual opportunists eager to profit from mishandling by goalkeepers.

Then there is distribution—the facet of modern goalkeeping that has received much attention from the goalkeepers themselves and has also been closely scrutinised by spectators. Much kicking downfield from the penalty area tends to be illogical in theory and futile in practice. In Mexico, where games are likely to be played at a pace more leisurely than that familiar to most North and Central European players, possession will be more than nine points of the law, and may assume the sort of importance that it holds in seven-a-side rugby.

Much, much better to run the ball upfield using your defenders and midfield men than to trust to bazooka-like punts that are in intention merely speculative and in practice may well just fall harmlessly far into the opposing half. Bonetti is self-confessedly a poor set-piece kicker, but both he and Banks are masters of throwing-out to their backs and place great stress on complete understanding of their defenders' needs. This, for instance, is an area of football where Brazil may be expected to be comparatively weak. It is not a question of whether the Brazilians can find a goalkeeper in time, so much as one of whether they can find a goalkeeper who can build up a close understanding with his defenders.

PETER BONETTI. (A)

There are certainly a handful of goalkeepers currently playing on the international scene who suggest that they may do well in Mexico. Both Banks and Bonetti are among the best in the world; the Russians have a promising young goalkeeper in Rudakov and his displays against Northern Ireland in the qualifying games certainly contributed in large measure to his team's eventual success; Italy have the choice of Albertosi, who played in the last World Cup, and Dino Zoff, who was a member of the successful European Nations' Cup side—both are brave and spectacular, both capable of making the odd traumatic mistake. The West Germans have Maier, certainly a more accomplished goalkeeper than Tilkowski on the technical plane, and his display against Scotland in the autumn suggested that he was fearless into the bargain; Rumania in Raducanu and Bulgaria in Simeonov have players who are wonderfully agile, who in the space of only a few weeks put on most spectacular performances against the English forwards a season ago. And then there is Mazurkiewicz, still the best goalkeeper to come out of South America in the last decade, still only 25 years old, a goalkeeper of great agility, cool judgement and sheer contempt for the nervousness that can too easily overcome a player supposedly left to himself for long stretches of the game.

These and their counterparts will need to exhibit all the skills at their command in Mexico. For when all allowances have been made for the form shown by strikers such as Pelé, Tostao, Muller and Riva it may well be the combination of Mexico's bizarre climate and warm-headed crowds that will act as the catalyst to the goalkeeping performances. It may just be a question of nerves.

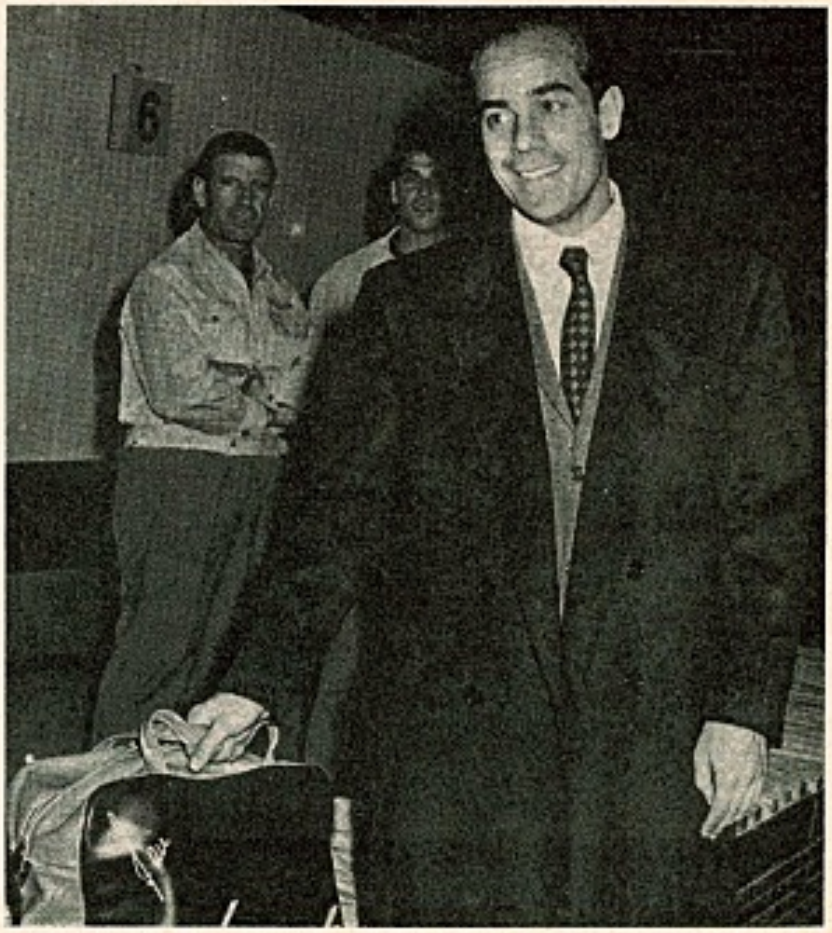
BOOK REVIEW

All the Way with Celtic (Souvenir Press, 21s.), by Bobby Murdoch

THE story of Bobby Murdoch begins when, at the age of only 14, he turned down an offer from Motherwell so that he could train with Celtic, the only team that ever meant anything to him. He is recognised as one of the greatest exponents of midfield play in Europe and he has been the inspiration and the foundation stone of the modern Celtic side by his ability to fulfil the battle orders of his manager, Jock Stein: "Take command of the midfield!" It is not surprising, therefore, that he was overwhelmingly voted "Player of the Year" in Scotland in 1968-69.

Now he talks frankly about life with Celtic. He recalls the World Cup tie in Nicosia against Cyprus, who, he says, were one of the poorest sides he ever played against—pages 100-101. He explains why he would rather be with his family than see a Rangers v. Celtic match with all its tension and bitterness which he believes not only splits the whole city of Glasgow, but maybe the whole of Scotland—pages 56-57. He questions the inconsistency of the dimensions of pitches in Britain, which he believes in turn often leads to inconsistent results. As he points out, a pitch 100 yards by 50 yards is as legal as one of 130 yards by 100 yards according to the laws of the game, but neither is much good for playing football on—page 120. He wonders if fathers are depriving their sons of future players by making them go and watch Celtic rather than go to the nearest park and have a kick-around with their pals—page 124.

"All the Way with Celtic" is the story of one of the finest footballers produced by Scotland in the last decade.



WHAT IS FUTURE OF LUIS SUAREZ?

NORMAN CUTLER in Milan

F.C. INTERNAZIONALE de Milan (Inter Milan) are adopting an unusual measure of grooming a particular personality they visualise as their future manager. It's been done before in England ... the last club, I believe, was Manchester United, who promoted Wilf McGuinness from player rank to—when Sir Matt Busby stepped into the shadows—manager of the League side.

Inter Milan are doing the same thing, although not so judiciously and diplomatically. When I was in Milan for the Barcelona-Inter Milan Fairs Cup match (what a dreary, monotonous shambles that was) the Italian club were making no secret of the fact that Luis Suarez, their famous Spanish inside-left, will one day become manager of the club. Until then Suarez is being given every facility, help and advice he needs.

The view the club takes is that they value Luis Suarez so much they don't intend to lose his services when his playing days are over. His technical genius, inspiration and perfect comportment on and off the field have made him the idol of Italy ... and the club perceive a new Inter Milan built around the personality of this great player.

"We have discussed this fully with him and he likes the idea. But being Luis he qualified his enthusiasm with 'if I myself am satisfied that I can succeed and justify the faith everyone has in me'," said Franco Manni, secretary of Inter.

Suarez, who has passed various Italian FA coaching courses, is already qualified as a second team manager. Next season, even if he decides to carry on in the League side, he is to take charge of the juvenile teams, to whom he has already given great service as director and coach. When he finally reaches national category, or as soon as permission can be obtained and he feels capable, Luis will step up as manager of Inter's league side.

That is the long-term plan I found Milan agog over.

I asked Heriberto Herrera, present manager, who has just renewed his contract for another year, about the project. He was equally enthusiastic about Suarez. "Of all the players I know, none has a greater future as manager than Luis Suarez. His technical knowledge is vast, his ability to quietly inspire his colleagues is uncanny and his likeable and sincere personality brings the best out of everyone. If Luis ever becomes a manager, he will be a good one."

Facts taken at random from the rise to fame of the modest Suarez read like extracts from a fairy tale.

In 1953 Barcelona, searching for a first-class forward, approached Coruna for the famous Uruguayan, Dagoberto Moll. Director Antonio Tamburini, in charge of the transfer, was only prepared to pay £1,800 ... £300 less than Coruna insisted. Negotiations broke down but a few days later Coruna offered a solution to the impasse. They suggested £1,800 for Moll and the balance for an unknown 18-year-old inside-forward. Barcelona reluctantly agreed.

Eight years later ... that £300 make-weight, Luis Suarez, was transferred to Inter Milan for the fee of £150,000.

During those years with Barcelona Suarez became Spain's greatest and most popular native-born player. He was nominated No. 1 Player of Europe by *France Football*, well ahead of names like Puskus, Di Stefano, Seeler and Yachin ... gained 21 international caps (31 in his career) and several league championship and cup winners medals.

When the notoriously blunt Helenio Herrera became manager of Barcelona he discovered the club were paying Suarez only £1,800 a year ... a ridiculously small salary for such a player," he said. Herrera insisted that the Catalan club increase that figure and within days Suarez was receiving £3,600.

By 1961 Helenio Herrera had left Barcelona and was manager of Inter Milan. Seeking the best ... as always ... he urged President Moratti to sign Suarez. Inter did, at a cost of £210,000 ... £150,000 for Barcelona, and £60,000 for Suarez for a three-year contract. Even for free-spending Italy these were astonishing figures, but no one can say that Suarez has not justified the money spent on him.

In the words of President Moratti: "We never had a moment's doubt then, or since. Luis was the best bargain Inter ever made."

Herrera saw the potential of Suarez, already a great player, was hardly realised. He persuaded him to change his style from a goalscoring forward to the role of a distributing forward. It was the foresight of a genius, for Suarez transformed Inter and became one of the world's great inside-forwards.

Today, nine years later, Suarez, now 35 years of age, is still, well ... Inter Milan.

What does Suarez himself say about this managerial proposal? He smiled when I broached the subject and, modest as ever, said: "So you have heard about it? Oh well, we shall see. I have hopes and ambitions, but only if I can justify the faith people have in me."

And about his success he says: "Football to me is a game ... and a job. I try and do everything as conscientiously and enthusiastically as I'm capable. I'm only one player, there are ten others in the team and we help each other."

Pendulum swings in favour of the old masters

by LESLIE VERNON

MY telephone rang one recent morn- at the unearthly hour of 8 a.m. It was Karoly Soos, ex-team manager of Hungary and East Germany, who told me that he was in London for three weeks, studying training methods and watching as much football as possible, because British is the best.

I agreed; of course, to help him, a little sadly perhaps, since here was yet another example of how the pendulum has swung once again in favour of the old masters of the game. It would be rather churlish and repetitive to say what I do not like about "British-type" football, but it seems a great pity that the Continentals don't seek their salvation by modernising their own traditional style.

Hungary has produced some of the finest ball-artists the game has ever seen—"monkeying" the British would only confuse them even further by abandoning their natural inclinations. Football is a way of self-expression for the players, and in my view, one particular way of playing it cannot be successfully thrust upon them.

CLAMMER

I could have dismissed Soos's semi-official visit here with "one swallow does not" etc., but the truth is that his arrival coincided with an almost world-wide clamour for British coaches.

Ronnie Allen was doing better than all right with Bilbao, so Barcelona grabbed Vic Buckingham and Ted Drake. Tommy Docherty is in charge of Oporto, and Benfica bid for Ramsey, Haynes, Alf Garnett or Marty Feldman.

Have they all gone mad? Do they really thank that a British passport guarantees triumph on a football pitch?

This is, of course, absolute rubbish; some British coaches are good, some of them are terrible. The really good ones, with respect to Allen and Docherty, are wanted here and can do their best work with players they understand and can talk to. And this is a very crucial point, because the most important part of running a team is the ability to motivate the players.

The mental attitude of the British footballers is unquestionably the best in the world. There is no need here to go round to their flats at 11 p.m. to make sure that the boys are all safely tucked in bed.

WHISPER

On the "wicked" Continent, it is exactly the opposite. A Spanish, a Greek or a Swedish footballer would not respond to a Malcolm Allison as the Manchester City players do. In other words, the coach is only as good as his players, and for instance, Oporto is not going to win the Portuguese championship next year whether they are managed by Docherty, me, or let's whisper it, a Portuguese coach.

As for the language difficulties, let me recount a story told by Sandor Pazmandi, once a hard-working wing-half, who is now coaching in Africa. "When I first arrived in Tunisia I could not speak a word of French. I was in charge of a team called La Marsa, and we had a very important Cup match two weeks after my arrival. The half-time score was 1-1, and I went into our dressing-room to make a few encouraging "gestures" to the players.

"To my astonishment, I noticed that two of them were taking their boots off and were ready to go home. After a couple of minutes of shouting, I found out that they had had an argument, and both decided to quit. I begged them to stay—in Hungarian, German, and using a few Latin words as well.

"Suddenly they embraced each other and both burst out crying. In two minutes the entire team were in tears and they were all kissing and consoling each other. They played like angels in the second-half, and we won 5-1! Next morning, the daily sports paper carried this headline: 'La Marsa coach Pazmandi won the game with his magnificent tactical instructions at half-time!' That's how I became the number one expert in Tunisia!"

This is a true story, and it makes me wonder how Ronnie Allen is getting on with his Spanish language lessons.

The plain truth is that we are dangerously near to a situation in which the players believe that they are more important than the "bosses." "Players' domination" ruined Hungarian and Yugoslav football (temporarily only I hope!) and it is creeping in everywhere.

Last summer, Eusebio held up Benfica to a ransom, Greaves, Hunt and West declared that they do not want to play for England! I had sympathy for the "burned-out" Roger Hunt and the home-loving Gordon West, but when Greaves said that "it is a waste of time to train with the squad unless you actually play in the match," I felt very angry indeed.

I would have liked to remind Mr. Greaves that it wasn't a "waste of time" for him to collect £1,000 after the 1966 World Cup Final in which he did not play. If English players behave in such an unreasonable way, what can one expect from the temperamental "foreigners."?

Gerd Muller and Netzer of Moenchengladbach announced after the 2-0 defeat against Spain that they would not play again for W. Germany if Uwe Seeler is in the team.

Helmut Shoen retorted that he is the sole selector of the international 11, and nobody will be allowed to interfere. That was his public statement, but privately, he must be a worried man. Who is more valuable to him—"old man" Uwe or the young goal-scoring genius, Muller? Can he afford to drop the in-form mid-field man, Netzer? Can he afford to yield to pressure without losing face and authority?

INTEGRITY

These are very serious questions. Ramsey has the personal integrity, and perhaps more important, the reserve strength to do without the rebels and the troublemakers. But how many international and club managers can indulge in this luxury?

In a recent statement, Sir Stanley Rous indicated that the 1974 World Cup Final field will be enlarged to include 24 teams. Extra places will be found for two countries each from Europe, Asia(!) and Africa(!) and one each from South America and Central America.

VISUALISE

He visualises either six groups of four teams or four groups of six teams in the usual K.O. tournament. This is an interesting idea, although the host country would be hard pressed to accommodate eight additional teams.

I also believe in wider participation in the Final tournament, but judging by the recent Africa Cup matches and the form of Central Americans (Mexico, El Salvador), I don't think that they are ready yet to be given more than one place in the Finals.

By 1978, they might catch up sufficiently but even then, I would rather see 32 Finalists, who would play one round of two-legged K.O. matches, home and away (with a certain amount of seeding) in order to decide the last 16 to travel to Argentina.

PETERS AND HURST FIND APPETITES

FRANCIS LEE. (LPA)

UNTIL their excellent 3-1 victory in Belgium, one would not have given a button for England's chances in Mexico. Not that we should be led wildly away by a success which, whatever its merits, had little relevance to what will occur in Mexico. Those of us who have been to torrid Guadalajara know only too well that fierce dry heat will replace the heavy mud and driving sleet which were encountered in Brussels; not to mention a problem of altitude which we are all, perhaps, tending to take a little too much for granted.

Nor, as it has frequently been pointed out, will England be flattered and favoured, as they were in Brussels, by teams which come out to attack them, thereby leaving a concomitant scope for the counter-attack, the kind of devastating breakaway which allowed Osgood, Hurst and Peters to make that splendid first goal for little Alan Ball.

Given all this, however, the gloom which was properly engendered by wretched performances at home to Portugal and Holland was just as properly dissipated; not least because of the tremendous break-through represented by Peter Osgood. It was a breakthrough less, perhaps, on account of his unquestionably major contribution, his demonstration of the "big match temperament," than through the fact that he was picked at all.

I was one of those who felt that, as a teenager, he should at least have been a member of the 22-strong World Cup party in 1966. I remember observing as much to Geoff Hurst after a rather ill-starred game on the Scandinavian tour, and Hurst responding, bitterly: "Instead of me, I suppose?" I hastily responded that I'd meant nothing of the sort; nor had I. I was not thinking in specifics, in terms of whom Osgood should have replaced. It was simply that in those of pure talent, Osgood deserved a chance to prove himself, and he didn't get it.

This season, when he had clearly at long last recovered from the aftermath of the leg he broke later in 1966, there was again a manifest case for choosing him. When Ramsey announced a group of thirty possibles without him it seemed criminally perverse; but to protest publicly against it, as many of us did, appeared little better than self-defeating.

Ramsey is beyond doubt a great team manager, but he is also, beyond doubt, an obstinate one. The harder you press him the deeper he will dig in his heels. In the end he picked Osgood grudgingly and anticlimactically, after first Bobby Charlton—needed by Manchester United for a Cup replay—then Colin Bell, injured, had dropped out of the reckoning. But then, having been given the opportunity to choose him as an obvious afterthought, a mere and bare necessity, lo and behold, Ramsey proceeded to pick him for the match itself!

I am not trying to canvass Osgood, as the very young Bobby Charlton was canvassed at the time of the 1958 World Cup, as a Messianic figure, the potential saviour of his country. Osgood is a very fine player, but no finer than such others in the team as Hurst, Peters, Ball and, in a defensive context, Moore. But his choice means that, in the England side, the career is again open to talents—as it became in France, under Napoleon. Whatever else may prevent us winning the World Cup in Mexico it is certainly not going to be Ramsey's old mistrust of erratic brilliance.

The fact is that if Lee and Osgood can come on to their game England will have a much more gifted team than the one which actually won the World Cup four years ago. Then the fortune of playing at home was probably decisive. I still do not believe that, Ramsey or no Ramsey, we could have won the competition anywhere else on earth even if, by the end, Alan Ball had matured into a great player, while Peters and Hurst had emerged as major international stars.

Peters and Hurst. The vicissitudes of these two, earlier in the season—Geoff Hurst with his bad back, Martin Peters with his divine discontent—seriously jeopardised the English prospects.

But in Brussels it was clear that Hurst had recovered his edge and his appetite while Peters, too, had recaptured his joy in playing. There is no

TERRY COOPER. (LPA)

MEXICO 70

ENGLAND

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

substitute for Hurst; there is none for Peters. Mick Jones, of Leeds United, played a perfectly adequate game against Holland. Jeff Astle, against Portugal, did not.

But neither has Hurst's inspired ability to move out to the right place at the right time, not only to make space—Roger Hunt could at least do that—but to control, hold and lay the ball off so effectively.

In this era of the counter-attack, when time must be won for the relieving forces to scurry up from mid-field, a footballer like Hurst, strong, courageous and almost impossible to disconcert, is invaluable. This quite apart from his astonishing, tank-like bursts of speed, the terrific shot in either foot, the ability to head such fine goals as that which won the sticky 1966 quarter-final against Argentina.

Peters, meanwhile, has two outstanding gifts. One is to use the ball with a subtlety and originality beyond anyone else in the team; though Ball's quick darts and deflections are often so effective. The other is to steal into the open spaces — or perhaps one should call them cracks—near goal, to score.

Ramsey will be faced in Mexico by the problem of Bobby Charlton. In South America last year he cautiously evaded it. To pick Charlton for the last match of the tour, against Brazil in Rio, after Francis Lee was injured, was a disastrous piece of time serving. Charlton has not, for years, been a front runner, a striker, and everybody, including Ramsey, must have known it. If they did not, then it was clear enough after Rio.

Colin Bell may well have regained his true, impressive form by the time Mexico comes so that Ramsey, in mid-field, will have a true embarrassment of riches. It seems to me that Alan Ball and Peters are beyond discussion. Emlyn Hughes did well enough in Brussels to be well in the running. Nobby Stiles, of talismanic importance to Ramsey and a galvanic influence on the rest of the team, will also claim strongly for a place if he is fit; on his moral, rather than his constructive and technical, influence. Osgood's greatest asset is that, unlike all of these, he can "do it" up front or from midfield; can score goals so superbly as well as merely make them.

The defence gives greater confidence, with Tommy Wright and Terry Cooper settling down, and Keith Newton likely to regain the form which made him such a fine player on the 1969 tour, even if he has shown little of it this season. Brian Labone's happy return in Brussels eases the problem at centre-half, where Jackie Charlton, at 34, is inevitably suspect, while Moore's importance to the side was emphatically emphasised when he didn't play.

England's group is a horribly hard one. Conditions will suit the Czechs' jog-trotting style, with the tall left-footed Kvasniak the lighthouse. The unfancied Rumanians bring no psychological burdens with them; they have a young, gifted team capable of upsetting anybody. The Brazilians, though unbalanced, can always win any, apparently lost, match through the brilliance of their individualists — as England learned painfully last year in Rio.

In the circumstances, then, it would be rash to prophecy that England will win the World Cup. But given the talent they deploy, given Ramsey's magic influence on the team, it would be equally rash not to place them still among the favourites.

ALAN BALL (Green)

● *Continued from page 17*

from Penarol shortly before they met Nacional in a Liberators cup-tie. Doctors discovered that Julio Cesar Cortes and Omar Caetano had both taken an African drug known as "Thogaina", which is largely unknown in South America but has been used in parts of Europe. It is a vegetable extraction with powerful stimulant properties. Cortes and Caetano, who are both on Hohberg's list, denied that they had taken drugs, and it remains to be seen what action will be taken by the Uruguayan FA. Ironically, it is the first time a test has ever been made on a football team in Uruguay.

One of the casualties of the protracted internecine warfare at Montevideo was Uruguay's projected international against Rumania scheduled for their recent tour. Rumania started badly with two early defeats in Brazil, 2-1 by Cruzeiro and 4-1 by Flamengo (when the Rumanian defence really went to pieces), but their improvement was quickly noticeable as the players got used to the conditions.

Just one full international was played, against Peru in Lima, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Rumania were much faster in the first half and used a long ball down the middle to confuse the Peruvian defence. Lucescu gave them the lead from this tactic after half-an-hour, beating Sartor with a hard shot to the top corner. Peru, who were without several of their top players, rallied in the second half. Sotil and Leon split the defence with a brilliant combination movement, enabling Cubillas to score. On the whole Rumania coped with the altitude well and gained some valuable information about the Brazilians in their earlier matches. Coach Angelo Nicescu said Brazil would "obviously show more fighting spirit and stamina than previously, but their forwards are still much better than their defenders."

As for Peru, well, they remain quite unpredictable They have beaten Mexico, lost to Mexico, beaten Bulgaria, lost to Bulgaria, drawn with Rumania, lost to Czechoslovakia, drawn with Russia and lost to Russia. After a month of "it's on it's off" statements, their proposed tour of Europe was finally called off through lack of finance, much to the annoyance of their coach, Didi. Instead Peru arranged a new series of games against touring club sides, and they have now had a match every week since Christmas — which is good preparation by any standard. Their form has fluctuated so sharply that it is impossible to predict what will happen in Mexico.

Peru showed their most remarkable improvement against Bulgaria.

The Bulgarians won their first match in Lima 3-0, and in the second were still leading 3-2 with eight minutes to go. But Pelota promptly completed his hat-trick, and Peru won the match, sensationally, by five goals to three. Can Peru produce this sort of result in Mexico?

SOCCERTISTICS

Edited by MICHAEL CHANDLER

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

W/E FEBRUARY 1

West Germany: Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 2, Eintracht Brunswick 1; Koln 2, 1860 Munchen 1; Bayern Munchen 1, Kaiserslautern 1; Hannover 96 0, MSV Duisberg 0; Schalke 04 1, Borussia Dortmund 1; VfB Stuttgart 5, Alemannia Aachen 0; Borussia Monchengladbach 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 2.

Italy: Bari 2, Brescia 0; Fiorentina 2, Lanerossi Vicenza 1; Inter-Milan 2, Roma 0; Juventus 2, Sampdoria 0; Lazio 0, Cagliari 2; Napoli 4, Torino 0; Palermo 1, Bologna 0; Verona 2, AC Milan 2.

Holland: Go Ahead 1, NEC 1; MVV 1, Ajax 1; ADO 4 AZ'67 0; SVV 0, Haarlem 0; Telstar 3, Holland Sport 0; DWS 0, PSV 0; NAC 1, Twente 1; Feijennord 6, DOS.

France: St. Etienne 2, Marseille 1; Nantes 1, Angouleme 1; Sochaux 0, Lyon 2; Bordeaux 0, Red Star 1; Nimes 4, Bastia 1; Valenciennes 0, Angers 2; Rouen 0, Sedan 0; Ajaccio 1, Strasbourg 0; Metz 2, Rennes 0.

Belgium: Lierse SK 2, Union St. Gilloise 2; SC Charleroi 0, Racing White 0; Anderlecht 0, Standard Liege 2; Beringen 1, FC Bruges 1; FC Liege 1, Waregem 0; Ostende 1, Beerschot 2; Crossing 0, La Gantoise 1.

Spain: Atletico Bilbao 5, Real Madrid 0; Atletico Madrid 5, Granada 0; Sabadell 3, Barcelona 2; Valencia 3, Mallorca 0; Sevilla 2, Zaragossa 0; Pontevedra 0, Coruna 0; Real Sociedad 3, Elche 0; Las Palmas 3, Celta Vigo 0.

Portugal: Sporting 1, Barrierense 0; Belenenses 1, Guimarares 0; Academica 0, Benfica 2; Leixoes 1, Setubal 3; Uniao de Tomar 1, Braga 1; CUF 1, Varzim 1; Boavista 3, Porto 2.

Luxembourg: Rumelingen 0, Jeunesse Esch 3; Spora 6, Niedercorn 0; Red Boys 2, Aris 1; Mondorf 1, Beggen 4; Tedingen 1, Dudelingen 2.

Greece: Proodeftiki 1, Panachaiki 1; Olympiakos Nikosia 0, Iraklis 2; Aigaleo 2, Ethnikos 1; Aris 2, Panathinaikos 0; Olympiakos Wolos 0, Panseraikos 2; Panionios 2, AEK 2; Olympiakos Piraus 1, PAOK 1; OF Iraklion 2, Kavala 2; Pierikos 1, Vyzas 0.

W/E FEBRUARY 8

Italy: Bologna 0, Verona 0; Brescia 1, Inter-Milan 1; Cagliari 0, Fiorentina 0; Vicenza 2, Bari 0; AC Milan 1, Palermo 0; Roma 2, Napoli 1; Sampdoria 0, Lazio 2; Torino 0, Juventus 3.

West Germany: Borussia Dortmund 1, Bayern Munchen 3; Werder Bremen 1, Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 1; Alemannia Aachen 1, Koln 3; Kaiserslautern 1, Borussia Monchengladbach 4; Rotweiss Essen 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 1; TSV 1860 Munchen 3, Hannover 96 0; MSV Duisberg 0, Hamburger SV 0.

Northern Ireland: Ards 3, Cliftonville 1; Ballymena 2, Bangor 2; Crusaders 2, Distillery 1; Derry 0, Glenavon 1; Linfield 4, Coleraine 2; Portadown 1, Glentoran 3.

Portugal: Porto 0, Sporting 1; Benfica 0, CUF 1; Belenenses 1, Leixoes 0; Uniao de Tomar 1, Setubal 2; Barreirense 5, Braga 1; Varzim 4, Boavista 1; Guimaraes 4, Academica 0.

Belgium: Racing White 2, Anderlecht 0; Waregem 1, Crossing 0; St. Trond 1, FC Liege 2; Standard Liege 2, La Gantoise 1; FC Bruges 3, Ostende 0; Lierse SK 1, Beringen 0; Union St. Gilloise 0, Beveren-Waas 1; Beerschot 2, SC Charleroi 0.

Holland: Telstar 1, NAC Breda 1; SVV 3, Feijenoord 4; ADO 5, DOS 0; MVV 1, Twente 3; Sparta 2, Holland Sport 1; Ajax 4, AZ'67 1.

W/E FEBRUARY 15

West Germany: Borussia Monchengladbach 4, Borussia Dortmund 2; Hamburger SV 0, TSV 1860 Munchen 1; VfB Stuttgart 4, Rot-Weiss Essen 1; Koln 5, Hertha BSC 1; Bayern Munchen 5, Eintracht Brunswick 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Kaiserslautern 1.

France: Lyon 1, Bordeaux 3; Angers 2, Sochaux 2; Rennes 1, Nantes 2; Strasbourg 1, St. Etienne 1; Marseille 2, Rouen 0; Red Star Paris 4, Ajaccio 1; Sedan 1, Nimes 0.

Italy: Roma 0, AC Milan 1; Napoli 0, Sampdoria 2; Fiorentina 2, Lazio 0; Juventus 4, Vicenzo 0; Palermo 1, Torino 0; Inter-Milan 1, Cagliari 0; Bari 0, Bologna 2; Verona 0, Brescia 0.

Belgium: La Gantoise 1, Union St. Gilloise 0; Anderlecht 4, Crossing 0; SC Charleroi 2, Standard Liege 4; Racing White 1, FC Bruges 1; Beringen 1, St. Trond 0; Ostende 1, Waregem 5; FC Liege 2, Beerschot 1.

Holland (Midweek): Go Ahead 1, Ajax 3; Sparta Rotterdam 2, GVAV 0.

Spain: Coruna 1, Atletico Bilbao 1; Granada 0, Valencia 1; Elche 1, Sabadell 1; Barcelona 1, Sevilla 0; Real Zaragossa 1, Atletico Madrid 0; Real Madrid 3, Real Sociedad 0; Mallorca 0, Celta Vigo 0; Pontevedra 0, Las Palmas 0.

Austria: Wattens 1, Grazer AK 1; Vienna 1, Rapid 0; Admira 1, Austria Klagenfurt 1; Austria Salzburg 1, Sportklub 1; Sturm Graz 1, Wacker Innsbruck 0; Austria Wien 4, Wacker Wien 2; Linz ASK 1, Eisenstadt 3.

Northern Ireland: Ballymena 0, Linfield 4; Bangor 1, Derry 1; Cliftonville 1, Portadown 2; Coleraine 2, Glentoran 0; Distillery 0, Ards 0; Glenavon 1, Crusaders 1.

Luxembourg: Union 2, Dundelingen 2; Tetingen 2, Beggen 2; Bad Mondorf 1, Aris 5; Red Boys 1, Niederkorn 0; Spora 1, Jeunesse Esch 2; Stade 0, Rumelingen 2.

Eire: Bohemians 4, Finn Harps 1; Cork Celtic 0, Shelbourne 1; Athlone Town 1, Waterford 1; Sligo Rovers 2, Dundalk 1; Drogheda 0, Cork Hibernians 1; Shamrock Rovers 2, Limerick 0; Drumcondra 4, St. Patrick's Athletic 2.

Greece: Olympiakos Piraus 3, Olympiakos Wolos 0; Panathinaikos 0, AEK 1; Olympiakos Nikosia 1, Panionios 1; Aigaleo 2, Panseraikos 0; Proodeftiki 1, Aris 0; PAOK 3, Pierikos 1; Kavala 2, Ethnikos 0; Vyzas 1, Panachaiki 1; OF Iraklion 2, Iraklis 1.

W/E FEBRUARY 22

West Germany: MSV Duisberg 2, Schalke 04 0; TSV 1860 Munchen 4, Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 1; VfB Stuttgart 0, Koln 3. (Midweek): Eintracht Brunswick 3, Schalke 04 0.

Holland: Feijenoord 5, NAC Breda 0; DOS Utrecht 1, DWS 1; Twente 2, Telstar 2; PSV 6, SVV 0; Holland Sport 4, ADO 0, AZ'67 2, Go Ahead 0; Haarlem 0, GVAV 0.

Luxembourg: Stade Dudelingen 2, Union Luxembourg 7.

Austria: Grazer AK 1, Rapid 1; Wacker Wien 4, Vienna 4; Eisenstadt 3, Admira 3; Linz ASK 4, Voest 1; Austria Wien 1, Sturm Graz 0; Wacker Innsbruck 1, Austria Salzburg 1.

Portugal: Leixoes 1, Uniao de Tomar 0; CUF 1, Guimaraes 0; Setubal 2, Barreirense 1; Braga 1, Porto 1; Boavista 1, Benfica 1; Adademica 3, Belenenses 0; Sporting 1, Varzim 1.

Ajax defender Barry Hulshof fails to stop Go Ahead's Dick Schneider from shooting in their League match which Ajax won 3-1. (UPI)

France: Nantes 0, Strasbourg 1; Rennes 2, Angouleme 0; Bordeaux 1, Angers 0; Nimes 2, Sochaux 0; Valenciennes 1, Sedan/RCP 3; Rouen 1, Lyon 0; Ajaccio 2, Marseille 4; St. Etienne 0, Red Star Paris 0; Metz 3, Bastia 0.

Belgium: FC Bruges 1, Anderlecht 0; FC Liege 0, La Gantoise 0; Lierse SK 0, Standard Liege 2, Beringen 1, SC Charleroi 2.

Eire: Athlone Town 2, Cork Hibernians 1; Drogheda 2, Drumcondra 0; Cork Celtic 1, Waterford 1; Shamrock Rovers 3, Dundalk 1. (Midweek): Shelbourne 1, Shamrock 0; Limerick 3, Drumcondra 0; Waterford 1, Sligo Rovers 0; Cork Hibernians 2, Bohemians 2; Dundalk 1, Cork Celtic 2.

Greece: Olympiakos Piraus 2, Olympiakos Nikosia 1; AEK 6, Pierikos 1; Aris 2, Vyzas 1; Olympiakos Wolos 0, Panathinaikos 2; Kavala 0, Iraklis 0; Panachaiki 1, Ethnikos 2; Panionios 0, Aigaleo 0; Panseraikos 1, OF Iraklion 0; PAOK 3, Proodeftiki 0.

W/E MARCH 1

Switzerland: Basel 2, St. Gallen 1; Fribourg 0, Grasshoppers 0; Lugano 1, Biel 1; Servette 3, Wettingen 1; Winterthur 3, Bellinzona 1; Young Boys 0, La Chaux-de-Fonds 0; Zurich 2, Lausanne 0.

West Germany: Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 1, Alemannia Aachen 0; Bayern Munchen 2, MSV Duisberg 0; Kaiserslautern 2, Borussia Dortmund 2; Koln 5, Rot-Weiss Essen 2; Schalke 04 3, TSV 1860 Munchen 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Eintracht Brunswick 0; Hannover 96 2, VfB Stuttgart 0; Borussia Monchengladbach 1, Werder Bremen 0.

Northern Ireland: Ards 0, Glenavon 1; Crusaders 1, Bangor 0; Derry 0, Ballymena 2; Glentoran 3, Distillery 0; Linfield 1, Cliftonville 1; Portadown 3, Coleraine 1.

Portugal: Benfica 1, Sporting 1; Academica 5, Leixoes 1; Porto 0, Setubal 3; Varzim 3, Braga 2; Guimaraes 3, Boavista 1; Belenenses 1, CUF 3.

Belgium: Waregem 1, Racing White 1; Lierse SK 1, FC Liege 2; St. Trond 1, La Gantoise 1; Crossing 2, Ostende 0; Union St. Gilloise 1, Beringen 0; FC Bruges 3, CS Charleroi 1; Standard Liege 3, Beveren 0; Beerschot 1, Anderlecht 3.

Spain: Atletico Madrid 1, Barcelona 1; Sabadell 3, Real Madrid 0; Atletico Bilbao 3, Pontevedra 1; Valencia 3, Real Zaragossa 1; Celta Vigo 2, Granada 1; Real Sociedad 2, Coruna 1; Malaga 1, Las Palmas 0.

Austria: Vienna 0, Grazer AK 0; Rapid 6, Austria Klagenfurt 0; Wattens 4, Eisenstadt 2; Admira 1, Voest 0; Linz ASK 0, Wiener Sportklub 3; Austria Salzburg 1, Austria Wien 1; Sturm Graz 3, Wacker Wien 1.

Luxembourg: Rumelingen 2, Spora 1; Jeunesse Esch 4, Red Boys 0; Niederecorn 4, Bad Mondorf 2; Aris 4, Tetingen 2; Beggem 1, Dudelingen 0.

Italy: Bologna 0, AC Milan 1; Brescia 4, Palermo 2; Cagliari 2, Napoli 0; Inter-Milan 0, Juventus 0; Lazio 1, Roma 1; Sampdoria 1, Bari 0; Torino 1, Fiorentina 0; Verona 3, Vicenza 1.

Greece: Aigaleo 0, Olympiakos Piraus – 1; Panathinaikos 3, Olympiakos Nikosia 0; Pierikos 3, Olympiakos Wolos 2; Kavala 0, Panseraikos 0; Proodeftiki 0, AEK 2; OF Iraklion 1, Panionios 2; Aris 0, Panachaiki 0; Ethnikos 0, Iraklis 0; Vyzas 2, PAOK 2.

SOUTH AMERICAN RESULTS

JANUARY 18 (and week)

Colombia (First Division—Final Round): Deportivo Cali 1, Millionarios de Bogota 0; (January 23): America de Cali 1, Millionarios 0.

Bolivia (National Championship 1969): Universidad 1, Bolivar 1; Universitario 5, San Jose de Oruro 2; Mariscal Santa Cruz 2, Oriente Petrolero (Santa Cruz) 0.

JANUARY 25

Colombia (First Division—Final Round): Depoetivo Cali 1, Millionarios 0; (January 29): America de Cali 2, Deportivo Cali 2.

FEBRUARY 1

Bolivia (National Championship (1969)): Universitario 2, Marascal Santa Cruz 0; San Jose de Oruro 4, Bolivar 2.

Colombia (First Division—Opening Championship, first games): Santa Fe 3, Once Caldas 1; America de Cali 1, Cacuta 0; Deportivo Pereira 2, Millionarios 4; Tolima 0, Junior 2; Bucaramanga 0, Deportivo Cali 3.

FEBRUARY 8

Colombia (First Division—Opening Championship): Millionarios 2, America de Cali 0; Junior 3, Bucaramanga 3; Once Caldas 2, Deportivo Pereira 2; Deportivo Quindio 1, Madellin 1; Cucuta 2, Union Magdalena 0.

LEAGUE TABLES

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Jeunesse	13	10	2	1	36	9	22
Rumelingen	13	8	2	3	27	16	18
Red Boys	12	7	3	2	26	20	17
Union	12	5	4	3	32	15	14
Spora	13	6	2	5	27	21	14
Beggen	13	5	4	4	19	19	14
Aris	13	6	1	6	24	25	13
Niederoorn	13	2	6	5	16	25	10
Dudelingen	12	2	5	5	14	24	9
Stade	11	4	0	7	19	23	8
Tetingen	13	2	4	7	13	26	8
Bad Mondorf	12	1	1	10	16	46	3

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Glentoran	18	12	4	2	39	15	28
Ards	18	9	6	3	31	17	24
Portadown	18	11	2	5	39	27	24
Linfield	18	9	4	5	38	27	22
Coleraine	18	9	2	7	38	30	20
Derry	17	8	3	6	28	26	19
Crusaders	18	8	3	7	41	36	19
Glenavon	18	5	6	7	20	30	16
Bangor	17	5	5	7	26	29	15
Ballymena	18	4	4	10	21	38	12
Distillery	18	3	4	11	19	40	10
Cliftonville	18	1	3	14	18	43	5

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Atletico Bilbao	23	13	7	3	37	15	33
Atletico Madrid	23	13	5	5	40	19	31
Real Madrid	23	12	5	6	41	30	29
Valencia	23	11	5	7	28	18	27
Real Sociedad	23	13	1	9	38	29	27
Real Zaragossa	23	11	4	8	26	28	26
Sevilla	22	10	5	7	27	22	25
Barcelona	23	9	7	7	28	26	25
Sabadell	23	10	3	10	28	25	23
Celta Vigo	23	8	6	9	25	30	22
Granada	23	8	5	10	19	26	21
Las Palmas	23	7	5	11	25	32	19
Coruna	23	5	8	10	19	27	18
Elche	22	5	7	10	22	35	17
Mallorca	23	6	4	13	27	43	16
Pontevedra	23	1	5	17	12	37	7

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Sporting	20	15	4	1	41	11	34
Setubal	20	12	4	4	44	21	28
Benfica	19	11	3	5	43	11	25
Varzim	20	9	7	4	28	19	25
Barreirense	20	9	4	7	37	26	22
Guimaraes	20	9	3	8	31	26	21
Belenenses	19	8	4	7	19	24	20
Porto	20	7	5	8	26	28	19
Academica	20	6	5	9	31	36	17
CUF	20	7	3	10	20	30	17
Leixoes	20	8	0	12	25	38	16
Braga	20	4	5	11	22	44	13
Boavista	20	3	5	12	24	51	11
Uniao de Tomar	20	3	4	13	14	40	10

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Cagliari	22	13	7	2	30	8	33
Juventus	22	13	5	4	35	11	31
AC Milan	22	11	7	4	31	15	29
Inter-Milan	22	10	8	4	26	15	28
Fiorentina	22	12	4	6	31	24	28
Napoli	22	9	6	7	20	16	24
Roma	22	7	8	7	21	27	22
Torino	22	8	6	8	16	22	22
Verona	22	6	9	7	20	21	21
Vicenza	22	8	4	10	25	25	20
Bologna	22	4	11	7	16	17	19
Lazio	22	7	4	11	17	26	18
Sampdoria	22	3	9	10	15	28	15
Bari	22	4	7	11	7	23	15
Palermo	22	4	6	12	19	35	14
Brescia	22	3	7	12	14	30	13

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Austria Wien	18	13	3	2	38	16	29
Wiener Sportklub	17	9	4	4	32	15	22
Wacker Innsbruck	17	9	3	5	28	14	21
Sturm Graz	18	8	5	5	26	22	21
Austria Salzburg	18	8	4	6	27	22	20
Rapid	18	7	5	6	31	21	19
Wattens	17	7	4	6	27	18	18
Grazer AK	18	4	10	4	18	16	18
Vienna	18	4	10	4	19	24	18
Linz ASK	18	6	5	7	21	18	17
Admira	18	6	5	7	24	29	17
Voest	17	6	2	9	14	31	14
Wacker Wien	18	5	4	9	34	45	14
Aust. Klagenfurt	17	2	9	6	17	29	13
Eisenstadt	18	3	5	10	20	36	11
Dornbirn	15	2	4	9	14	34	8

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Panathinaikos	22	18	2	2	44	13	60
AEK	22	14	6	2	36	13	56
Olym. Piraus	22	15	3	4	37	14	55
Aris	22	14	3	5	29	11	53
Iraklis	22	11	6	5	29	21	50
PAOK	22	5	13	4	33	21	45
Aigaleo	22	8	7	7	27	21	45
Panseraikos	22	8	7	7	21	20	45
Pierikos	22	7	7	8	27	32	43
Panionios	22	7	6	9	31	24	42
Ethnikos	22	5	10	7	23	26	42
Proodeftiki	22	6	7	9	17	26	41
OF Iraklion	22	6	5	11	21	30	39
Kavala	22	5	7	10	15	26	39
Panachaiki	22	4	8	10	25	37	38
Vyzas	22	4	7	11	20	35	37
Olym. Wolos	22	5	3	14	14	31	35
Olym. Nikosia	22	1	3	17	7	55	26

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
B. Mon'gladbach	21	15	3	3	50	18	33
Koln	22	15	2	5	59	21	32
Bayern Munchen	21	14	3	4	53	22	31
Hertha BSC	20	11	3	6	34	25	25
Schalke 04	22	9	6	7	31	36	24
B. Dortmund	22	9	5	8	36	36	23
E. Frankfurt	22	7	8	7	27	32	22
VfB Stuttgart	22	9	3	10	43	43	21
MSV Duisberg	21	6	8	7	23	29	20
RW Oberhausen	23	8	4	11	34	41	20
Kaiserslautern	22	6	7	9	29	40	19
Hamburger SV	19	6	6	7	30	28	18
E. Brunswick	21	6	6	9	23	32	18
RW Essen	22	5	8	9	28	40	18
TSV 1860 Munch.	23	7	3	13	27	39	17
Hannover 96	20	6	4	10	25	36	16
Werder Bremen	19	4	7	8	19	26	15
Ale. Aachen	22	4	4	14	21	48	12

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Zurich	13	7	4	2	26	15	18
Servette	14	6	5	3	32	17	17
Lugano	14	6	5	3	23	17	17
Winterthur	14	6	4	4	26	17	16
Basel	14	6	4	4	28	19	16
Grasshoppers	14	6	4	4	16	11	16
Lausanne	14	4	8	2	26	23	16
Fribourg	14	6	2	6	18	15	14
Biel	14	6	2	6	14	21	14
Young Boys	14	5	4	5	22	25	14
La Chaux-de-F.	13	5	1	7	16	29	11
Wettingen	14	4	2	8	18	27	10
Bellinzona	13	2	4	7	10	22	8
St. Gallen	13	2	1	10	12	29	5

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Feijenoord	21	17	4	0	58	10	38
Ajax	20	17	2	1	54	12	36
PSV	21	12	4	5	46	24	28
ADO	21	9	7	5	34	22	25
Sparta	21	10	5	6	35	26	25
Twente	21	8	8	5	26	23	24
MVV	21	7	9	5	31	27	23
NAC	20	8	6	6	22	25	22
Holland Sport	21	9	4	8	30	30	22
Haarlem	21	5	10	6	15	21	20
NEC	19	6	7	6	20	19	19
AZ '67	21	6	6	9	20	29	18
Go Ahead	21	5	8	8	21	32	18
Telstar	22	4	6	12	22	33	14
DOS	22	4	5	13	14	38	13
DWS	21	3	4	14	13	35	10
SVV	22	3	4	15	21	58	10
GVAV	18	2	5	11	10	28	9

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Standard	24	17	5	2	55	20	39
Bruges FC	23	15	4	4	50	28	34
La Gantoise	24	14	5	5	42	22	33
Beerschot	24	11	6	7	32	21	28
Anderlecht	23	10	6	7	46	23	26
Beveren	23	10	6	7	33	26	26
Racing White	24	8	9	7	29	32	25
Waregem	24	8	8	8	30	38	24
Lierse SK	22	7	8	7	29	27	22
SC Charleroi	24	9	3	12	31	36	21
Union St. Gilloise	23	6	8	9	20	29	20
St. Trond	24	7	6	11	32	43	20
FC Liege	23	7	4	12	27	36	18
Ostende	24	4	6	14	20	49	14
Beringen	23	3	7	13	21	38	13
Crossing	24	4	5	15	19	48	13

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

FEBRUARY 1

Uruguay XI (1) 2 (Alvarez, Bareno)
Czechoslovakia (1) 2 (Stratil, Gomola)

Uruguay: Corbo; Sandoval, Fontes; Mastoro, Martinez, -Hornes; Gomez, Alvarez, Zubia, Pisano, Bareno.

Czechoslovakia: Sedlacek; Vito, Jilek; Smolik, Plass, Kollar; Vesely, Bicovski (Smetana), Stratil, Pindejs, Gomola (Svoboda).

(Ref.: Angel Pazos/Uruguay).

FEBRUARY 3

Cuba 1 North Korea 0 (Cuba won series 7-2 and one drawn).

FEBRUARY 5

Peru (0) 0 Czechoslovakia XI (2) 2 (Stratil, Smetana).

FEBRUARY 7

Peru (0) 1 (Cubillas)
Rumania (1) 1 (Lucescu)

Peru: Sartor; Campos, Salinas; Cruzado, Gonzalez, Chumpitaz; Baylon (Zegarra), Castaneda (Sotil), Leon, Cubillas, Gallardo.

Rumania: Raducanu; Satmareanu, Mocanu; Nunweiller, Halmagrano, Dinu; Dobrin, Neagu, Dumitrache, Dimitru, Lucescu.

(Ref.: C. Orozco/Peru).

FEBRUARY 9

Peru (1) 2 (Sotil 2)
Czechoslovakia XI (0) 1 (J. Gonzalez o.g.)

Peru: Zegarra; Gonzalez (P.), Risco; Cruzado, Gonzalez (J.), Fernandez; Munante, Challe, Sotil, Cubillas, Ramirez.

Czechoslovakia: Sedlacek; Vito, Jilek; Kollar, Plass, Smolik; Vesely, Bicovsky, Stratil, Smetana, Gomola.

(Ref.: E. Hieger/Austria).

● Continued overleaf

SOCCERTISTICS

● *Continued from previous page*

FEBRUARY 11

Spain (2) 2 (Arieta 2) 30,000
West Germany (0) 0

Spain: Iribar; Sol (Melo), Eladio; Arieta, Gallego, Costas; Lora, Amancio, Garate (Ufarte), Uriarte, Rojo.
West Germany: Manglitz; Vogts, Schnellinger; Haller, Schulz, Weber; Libuda, Gerd Muller, Seeler, Netzer, Grabowski.

FEBRUARY 13

Colombia (0) 0 **Czechoslovakia** (0) 1 (Ilicovsky).

FEBRUARY 15

Peru (0) 0 42,000
Russia (0) 0

Peru: Rubinos; Campos, Salinas; Challe, La Torre, Chumpitaz; Baylon, Cruzado, Leon, Cubillas, Gallardo.
Russia: Rudakov; Dzodzuashvili, Lovstichev; Serebrainnikov, Shesternev, Khurtsilava; Muntjan, Asatiani, Byshovets, Gerschkovitsch, Nodija.

Mexico (1) 1 (Diaz) 70,000
Bulgaria (0) 1 (Marachliev)

Mexico: Calderon; Sanchez Galindo, Perez; Munguia, Pena, Guzman; Bustos (Horacio), Gonzalez, Fragoso (Borja), Diaz (Basaguren), Padilla (Cisneros).
Bulgaria: Simeonov; Chalamanov (Gaidarski), Aladjov; Bonev, Dimitrov, Jetchev; Marinov (Marachliev), Penev, Asparoukhov, Yakimov, Dermendijev.

FEBRUARY 18

Mexico (0) 2 (Rivas, Basaguren)
Bulgaria (0) 0 30,000

Mexico: Castrejon; Vantolra, Perez; Hernandez, Guzman, Montes; Bustos (Rivas), Gonzalez, Fragoso (Basaguren), Onofre, Padilla (Horacio Lopez Salgado).
Bulgaria: Filipov; Gaidarski, Jetchev; Nikodimov, Kolev (Yakimov), Gaganelov; Marinov, Petrov (Asparoukhov), T. Kolev (Penev), Bonev, Mihailov.

FEBRUARY 22

Spain (2) 2 (Burgnich o.g., Salvadore o.g.) 80,000
Italy (2) 2 (Anastasi, Riva)

Spain: Iribar; Sol, Eladio; Amancio, Gallego (Violeta), Costas (Grosso); Lora, Garate, Arieta, Uriarte, Rojo.
Italy: Zoff; Burgnich, Facchetti; Cera, Salvadore, Puia; Domenghini, Rivera, Anastasi, De Sisti, Riva.
(Ref.: Tschenscher/W. Germany).

Mexico (0) 0 40,000
Sweden (0) 0

Mexico: Castrejon; Vantolra, Perez; Hernandez, Guzman, Montes; Calderon (Bustos), Cisneros (Onofre), Basaguren, Pulido (Gonzalez), Horacio Lopez Salgado.
Sweden: Hellstrom; Selander, Grip; Svensson, Kristensson, Nordquist; Eriksson, Danielsson (Cronquist), Larsson, Ejderstedt (Palsson), Nicklasson.

El Salvador (0) 0 35,000
Russia (1) 2 (Pusatch, Serebrainnikov)

El Salvador: Magana; Mejia, Mancano; Cabeza, Castro (Mariona), Ruballo; Cabrera, Monje, Martinez, Quintanilla, Acevedo (Aparicio).
Russia: Kavasachvili; Logofet, Afonin; Kiselev, Kaplichtny, Khurtsilava; Pusatch, Muntjan (Serebrainnikov), Guerschkovitsch (Byshovets), Asatinia, Khmelnitski.

FEBRUARY 25

Belgium (0) 1 (Dockx)
England (1) 3 (Ball 2, Hurst)

Belgium: Trapeniers; Heylens, Thissen; Van Moer, Dewalque, Jack; Semmeling, Dockx, Devrindt, Van Himst, Polleunis (Verheyen).
England: Banks; Wright, Cooper; Moore (B.), Labone, Hughes; Lee, Ball, Osgnod, Hurst, Peters.
(Ref.: Sbardella/Italy).

Peru (1) 5 (Sotil 3, Challe, Cubillas)
Bulgaria (0) 3 (Dermendijev, Asparoukhov 2)

Peru: Correa; Campos, Salinas (del Castillo); Cruzado (Sotil), La Torre, Chumpitaz; Baylon, Leon, Cubillas, Challe, Gallardo.
Bulgaria: Simeonov; Gaidarski, Aladjev; Penev, Jetschev, Dimitrov; Marinov (Mihailov), Bonev, Asparoukhov, Nikodimov (Jakimov), Dermendijev.

FEBRUARY 26

Costa Rica (1) 2 (Saenz, Daniels)
El Salvador (0) 0

Costa Rica: Sagot; Estupinan, Calvo; Cuscante, Elizondo, Aguero; Daniels, Saenz, Gomez, Vega (Hernadez), Nunez (Wanchope).
El Salvador: Pineda; Mejia, Ruballo; Pineta, Castro, Mendez; Servina, Portillo (Cabrera), Gil, Libano (Canedo), Aparici.

MARCH 1

Mexico (0) 0 3,000
Sweden (0) 1 (Eriksson)

Mexico: Castrejon; Galindo, Perez (Ramirez); Munguia, Pena, Guzman; Bustos, Gonzalez, Fragoso, Pereda, Lopez.
Sweden: Hellstrom; Selander, Grip; Svensson, Kristensson, Nordquist; Larsson (B.), Eriksson, Danielsson (Nicklasson), Eklund (Ejderstadt), Karlsson.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

DECEMBER 21

Mexico (0) 0
Atvidaberg (Sweden) (0) 0

Mexico: Pineda; Sanchez, Arevalo; Diaz, Nunez, Montes; Munguia, Gavlin, Fragoso, Victorino, Hernandez.
Atvidaberg: Bolmberg; Olson, Gustavsson; Augustsson, Andersson, Karlsson; Andersson (G.), Jonberg, Wallinder, Eklund, Sandberg.

JANUARY 16

Uruguay XI (2) 3 (Bareno 2, Alvarez)
Red Star (Yugoslavia) (1) 1 (Karasi)

Uruguay: Corbo (Carrasco); Sandoval, Fontes; Martinez, Mastoro, Vazquez (Hornes); Gomez, Alvarez, Zubia, Pisano, Bareno.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivorucha, Dojcinovsky; Keri, Jevtic, Rajkovic; Karasi, Klenkovski, Lazarevic, Acimovic, Drajic.

JANUARY 17

Peru 2 Dynamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia) 2. **Mexico XI 4 Spartak Trnava 2.**

JANUARY 21

In Jaffa: Israel (1) 1 **Rumania Olympic XI** (1) 2.

JANUARY 22

Peru (2) 2 (Sotil 2)
Dynamo Zagreb (1) 1 (Belin)

Peru: Zegarra (D.); Campos, Salinas; Oliva, La Torre, Chumpitaz; Zegarra (A.), Castaneda, Sotil, Cubillas, Gallardo.
Dynamo Zagreb: Dautegovic; Cvec, Gracanin; Belin, Ramljak, Blankovic; Novak, Piric, Valec, Cerek, Rora.

JANUARY 23

Cruzeiro (Brazil) (0) 2 (Palinha, Dirceu Lopez) **Rumania** (0) 1 (Dumitrache). **Deportivo Concepcion** (Chile) (0) 2 **Czechoslovakia XI** (1) 1.

JANUARY 24

Everton (Chile) (1) 2 (Zarate 2)
Czechoslovakia (2) 4 (Bicovsky, Findejs, Vesely, Stratil)

Everton: Bravo; Aguilar, Sosa; Martinez, Sanchez, Aravena; Zarate, Gallegos, Escudero, Bonano, Henry.
Czechoslovakia: Sedlacek; Vito, Jilek; Kouba, Plass, Smolik; Vesely, Findejs, Stratil, Bicovsky, Gomola.

JANUARY 25

Hajduk Split (1) 3 (Jerkovic, Bajevic, Ivkovic) **Russia** (1) 1 (Pusatch). Att. 22,000.
South Australia 0 **Rumania Olympic XI** 1 (at Adelaide).
Atletico Mineiro (Brazil) (0) 0 **Rumania** (1) 1 (Neagu). Att. 50,000.

JANUARY 27

Morocco (1) 1 (Bamouss)
Slovan Bratislava (1) 1 (Moder)

Morocco: Allal; Boujemaa, Fadili; Marouni, Slimani, Moulay-Idriss; Said, Filali, Bamouss, Maghfour, Ghazouani.
Slovan: Vencel; Fillo, Zlocha (J.); Zlocha (L.), Hrivnak, Horvath; Jozak Capkovic, Moder, Jan Capkovic, Hrdlicka, Jokl.
(in Casablanca).

JANUARY 28

Peru (2) 3 (Cubillas 2, Gallardo)
Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) (1) 2 (Svec)

Peru: Sartor; Campos, Salinas; Oliva (Sotil), La Torre, Chumpitaz; Zegarra (A.), Castaneda, Leon, Cubillas, Gallardo.
Spartak: Geryk (Keketi); Dobias, Varadin; Hrusecky, Majernik, Jarabek; Svec, Kuna, Adamec, Martinkovic, Kabat.

Sport de Curitiba (Brazil) (1) 1 (Wernek, pen.)
Rumania (0) 2 (Neagu, Dobrin)

Curitiba: Cello; Hermes, Lo; Bidon, Oberdam, Nico (Valtinho); Wernek, Hidalgo (Lucas), Kruger, Passarinho (Marcos), Waldir.
Rumania: Raducanu; Satmareanu, Mocanu; Gherghelı, Lupescu, Dinu; Dembrovski (Nunweiler), Dobrin, Neagu, Dimitru, Lucescu (Domide).

JANUARY 30

Peru (0) 1 (Sotil) 43,000
Spartak Trnava (0) 1 (Fandel)

Peru: Correa; Gonzalez (P.), Risco; Challe, Fernandez, Gonzalez (J.); Baylon, Rojas (Cubillas), Sotil, Castaneda, Ramirez.
Spartak: Geryk; Dobias, Harada; Fandel, Binik, Jarabek; Svec, Kuna, Adamec, Martinkovic, Varadin (Valentovic).

JANUARY 31

Venezuela Amateur XI (0) 0
Quilmes (Argentina) (3) 5 (Benito 2, Cotton 2, Blasco)

Venezuela: Arozena; Eduardo, Popi; Miguelito, Issa, Heroes; Marcano, Carbonell, Roldan, Garcia, Ustartz.
Quilmes: Fillol; Blasco, Laginestra; Della Savia, Sernia, Lopez; Benito, Martinez, Santiago, Cotton, Leeb.

FEBRUARY 1

Montenegro Select 1 Russia 1 (in Titograd, Yugoslavia).

FEBRUARY 2

Colombia (0) 1 (Campaz) **Spartak Trnava** (1) 1 (Caicedo og). **Victoria State XI 0 Rumania Olympic XI 1** (in Melbourne).

FEBRUARY 4

Botafogo (Brazil) (1) 1 (Roberto) **Russia** (0) 0 (in Caracas). Att. 40,000. **Internacional** (Porto Alegre, Brazil) (0) 1 (Valdomiro pen) **Rumania** (0) 1 (Domide).

FEBRUARY 8

Uruguay 2 Alto (Peru) 1 (in Montevideo). **Seville** (0) 2 **Morocco** (0) 0 (in Seville, Spain).

FEBRUARY 9

Russia 3 Spartak Trnava 2 (in Caracas).

FEBRUARY 12

Peru (0) 2 (A. Zegarra, Ramirez)
Gornik (Poland) (2) 2 (Lubanski 2)

Peru: Correa; Gonzalez (P.), Risco; Challe, La Torre, Chumpitaz; Munante, Rojas, Sotil, Cruzado, Ramirez. (Leon and A. Zegarra were used as substitutes).
Gornik: Kostka; Jutcha, Florenski; Wilczek, Oslizlo, Latocha; Olek, Banas, Lubanski, Szoltysik, Deja.
(Ref.: E. Labo/Peru).

MEXICO LEAGUE RESULTS

FEBRUARY 8

Guadalajara 4, Leon 0; Nexaca 1, Monterrey 1; Veracruz 4, Oro 2; Torreon 2, Universidad 1; Atlas 3, Atlante 2; Cruz Azul 1, Laguna 0; Pachuca 2, Irapuato 1; America 0, Toluca 1.

FEBRUARY 15

Universidad 1, Nexaca 0; Monterrey 1, Guadalajara 0; Oro 2, Torreon 1; Leon 3, Veracruz 0; Atlante 0, Cruz Azul 2; Toluca 1, Pachuca 2; Irapuato 2, Atlas 2; Laguna 1, America 0.

FEBRUARY 22

Atlas 1, Toluca 1; America 0, Pachuca 0; Cruz Azul 1, Irapuato 0; Laguna 0, Atlante 0; Guadalajara 4, Universidad 1; Nexaca 3, Oro 0; Leon 6, Monterrey 0; Veracruz 2, Torreon 3.

MARCH 1

Atlante 1, America 1; Toluca 2, Cruz Azul 0; Pachuca 2, Atlas 0; Irapuato 4, Laguna 2; Oro 0, Guadalajara 1; Universidad 2, Leon 2; Monterrey 1, Veracruz 0; Torreon 0, Nexaca 0.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Pachuca	4	3	1	0	6	2	7
Cruz Azul	4	3	0	1	4	2	6
Toluca	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Atlas	4	1	2	1	6	7	4
Irapuato	4	1	1	2	7	7	3
Laguna	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
America	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Atlante	4	0	2	2	3	6	2

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Guadalajara	4	3	0	1	9	2	6
Leon	4	2	1	1	11	6	5
Torreon	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
Monterrey	4	2	1	1	3	7	5
Nexaca	4	1	2	1	4	2	4
Universidad	4	1	1	2	2	5	3
Veracruz	4	1	0	3	3	6	2
Oro	4	1	0	3	4	9	2

MAR DEL PLATA INTER-CLUB TOURNAMENT (in Argentina)

JANUARY 19

Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) (0) 1 (Willington)
Nexaca (Mexico) (0) 1 (Morales)

Velez Sarsfield: Marin; Gallo, Atela; Rios (La Palma), Zeballos, Zottola; Luna, Soloramo, Bianchi (Perez), Willington, Nogara.
Nexaca: Mota; Garcia, Plascencia; Romo, Majewski, Albert; Linares (Montoya), Morales, Lostanau (Marinho), Regueiro, Hernandez.
(Ref.: C. Brusca/Argentina).

(Jan. 21): **Independiente** (Argentina) (1) 3 (Tarabini 2, Pastoriza) **Velez Sarsfield** (0) 1 (Maturo).

JANUARY 23

Boca Juniors (Argentina) (0) 2 (Medina, Ponce)
Nexaca (0) 0

Boca Juniors: Sanchez; Sune, Marzolini; Madurga, Melendez, Rogel; Ponce, Rojas (Curioni), Savoy, Medina, Villagra.
Nexaca: Mota; Garcia, Plascencia; Romo, Majewski, Albert; Marinho, Regueiro, Lostanau, Morales, Hernandez (Borja).
(Ref.: M. Comessna/Argentina).

(Jan. 24): **Racing Club** (Argentina) (0) 1 (Machado da Silva) **Velez Sarsfield** (1) 1 (Maturo).

Two Czechoslovakia defenders are on hand to prevent a Colombian forward from capitalising on an attack during the match in Bogota won 1-0 by the touring Czech side. (UPI)

JANUARY 27

Independiente (1) 2 (Arara, Tarabini)
Nexaca (0) 1 (Marinho)

Independiente: Santoro; Comisso, Pavoni; Tardivo (Adorno), Monge; Figueroa; Fernandez "Arara" (Maglione), Raylondo (De la Mata), Yazalde, Bernao, Tarabini.
(Ref.: J. C. Rodriguez/Argentina).

(Jan. 30): **Velez Sarsfield** (2) 3 (Willington 2, Bentron) **Boca Juniors** (1) 2 (Savoy, Villagra).

FEBRUARY 1

Racing Club (1) 2 (Moreno, Lamelza)
Nexaca (0) 0

Racing: Cejas; Chabay (Lauge), Diaz; Wolff (Rulli), Perfumo, Paolino; Cardenas, Aguirre (Squeo), Moreno, Adorno, Lamelza.
Nexaca: Moranchel; Garcia, Plasencia; Lustanau, Majewski, Albert; Marinho, Reguciro, Borja (Pazos), Morales (Montoya), Hernandez.
(Ref.: R. Cruces/Argentina).

(Feb. 1): **Independiente** (1) 2 (Arara, Tarabini) **Racing Club** (2) 2 (Cardenas 2). (Feb. 9): **Independiente** (0) 1 (Tarabini) **Boca Juniors** (1) 1 (Savoy). **Racing Club** (1) 1 (Moreno) **Boca Juniors** (0) 0.

FINAL PLACINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Racing Club	4	2	2	0	6	3	6
Independiente ...	4	2	2	0	8	5	6
Velez Sarsfield ...	4	1	2	1	6	7	4
Boca Juniors ...	4	1	1	2	5	5	3
Nexaca	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

MONTEVIDEO CUP INTER-CLUB TOURNAMENT

JANUARY 12

Penarol (Uruguay) (2) 4 (Rocha 2, Onega, Goncalves) 27,000
Red Star (Yugoslavia) (0) 0

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves (Cortes), Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna, Rocha, Spencer (Lambert), Onega, Losada.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivokucha, Dojcinovski; Jevtic, Rajkovic, Keri; Karasi (Antonijevic), Acimovic, Lazarevic, Klenkovski, Dzajic.
(Ref.: A. Pazos/Uruguay).

JANUARY 15

Nacional (Uruguay) (2) 2 (Celio, Cubilla) 22,000
Corinthians (Brazil) (0) 0

Nacional: Manga; Ubina, Brunell; Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez; Prieto, Celio, Artime, Maneiro, Cubilla.
Corinthians: Ado; Miranda, Luiz Carlos; Rivelinho, Ditao, Pedrinho; Ivair, Dirceu Alves, Silvio (Paulo Borges), Suingue, Lima.
(Ref.: R. Barreto/Uruguay).

JANUARY 17

Corinthians (3) 6 (Rivelinho 2, Suingue 2, Ivair 2) 40,000
Red Star (0) 0

Corinthians: Ado; Miranda, Luiz Carlos; Dirceu Tales, Ditao, Pedrinho; Ivair (Tales then Lima), Rivelinho, Bene, Paulo Borges, Suingue.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivokucha, Dojcinovski; Klenkovski, Rajkovic, Keri; Karasi, Antonijevic, Lazarevic, Acimovic, Dzajic.

Penarol (1) 2 (Spencer Lambert) 40,000
San Lorenzo (Argentina) (0) 2 (Rodriguez, Figueroa)

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Goncalves (Cortes), Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna, Rocha (Viera), Spencer (Lambert), Onega, Losada.
San Lorenzo: Buttice (D'Alessandro); Villar, Rosl; Esposito (Tojo), Sconfianza, Albrecht; Veglio, Ayala (Figueroa), Gonzalez, Garcia Ameijenda, Rodriguez.
(Ref.: A. Pena Rocha/Uruguay).

JANUARY 19

San Lorenzo (1) 3 (Veglio, Gonzalez, Garcia Ameijenda)
Red Star (1) 1 (Acimovic)

San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Tojo (Rodriguez), Sconfianza, Albrecht; Gonzalez, Esposito, Veglio (Figueroa), Ayala (Telch), Garcia Ameijenda.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivokucha, Dojcinovski; Klenkovski, Rajkovic, Keri; Karasi, Acimovic, Lazarevic, Antonijevic, Dzajic.
(Ref.: L. Rodriguez Candales/Uruguay).

Nacional (1) 6 (Cubilla 2, Celio 2, Maneiro, Artime)
River Plate (Argentina) (0) 1 (D. Onega)

Nacional: Manga; Ubina, Brunell; Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez; Prieto, Celio, Artime, Maneiro, Cubilla.
River Plate: Perez (L.); Ferreiro, Dominichi; Merlo (R. Perez), Lopez, Recio; Gennoni, Rodriguez, Onega (D.), Marchetti, Mas (Cibeyra).
(Ref.: P. Vaga/Uruguay).

JANUARY 22

Corinthians (0) 0
San Lorenzo (0) 0

Corinthians: Ado; Miranda, Luiz Carlos; Dirceu Alves, Ditao, Pedrinho; Ivair (Tiao), Rivelinho, Paulo Borges, Bene (Servilio), Suingue.
San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Esposito (Telch), Sconfianza, Albrecht; Ayala, Tojo (Rodriguez), Veglio, Fischer (Figueroa), Garcia Ameijenda.
(Ref.: T. Palumbo/Uruguay).

Penarol (0) 2 (E. Onega 2)
River Plate (1) 1 (Dominichi)

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Viera, Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna, Caceres, Onega (E.), Cortes, Losada.
River Plate: Perez (L.); Ferreiro, Dominichi; Rodriguez, Lopez, Recio; Gennoni, Perez (R.), Onega (D.), Marchetti, Mas.
(Ref.: A. Boulloss/Uruguay).

JANUARY 27

San Lorenzo (3) 5 (Gonzalez 2, Fischer 2, Villar)
River Plate (1) 3 (Mas 2, Gennoni)

San Lorenzo: Buttice (D'Alessandro); Villar, Rosl; Esposito, Sconfianza, Albrecht; Figueroa (Calics), Rendo (Rodriguez), Fischer, Gonzalez, Garcia Ameijenda.
River Plate: J. Perez (Carballo); Ferreiro, Dominichi; R. Perez (Vieitez), Lopez, Recio; Gennoni, Rodriguez, Onega (D.), Marchetti (Trebucq), Mas.
(Ref.: A. Pazos/Uruguay).

Nacional (2) 3 (Cubilla 3)
Red Star (0) 1 (Antonijevic)

Nacional: Manga; Ubina, Brunell (Blanco); Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez; Prieto, Celio, Artime, Maneiro, Cubilla.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivokucha, Dojcinovski; Acimovic, Keri, Rajkovic; Karasi, Klenkovski, Lazarevic (Noscovic), Antonijevic, Dzajic.
(Ref.: O. Leiton/Uruguay).

Penarol (0) 0
Corinthians (0) 0

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Cortes, Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna (Goya), Caceres, Onega (E.), Rocha, Losada.
Corinthians: Ado; Guinhe, Luiz Carlos; Tiao, Ditao, Pedrinho; Ivair, Rivelinho, Servilio, Paulo Borges, Lima (Dirceu Alves).
(Ref.: A. Pena Rocha/Uruguay).

FEBRUARY 3

River Plate (1) 3 (Gennoni, Onega, Trebucq)
Corinthians (0) 1 (Suingue)

River Plate: Perez (J.); Ferreiro, Vieitez; Perez (R.), Lopez, Recio; Montivero (Trebucq), Gutierrez, Onega (D.), Marchetti (Scotta), Gennoni.
Corinthians: Ado; Rodriguez, Luiz Carlos; Dirceu Alves (Tiao), Ditao, Pedrinho; Ivair (Bene), Rivelinho, Servilio, Paulo Borges, Suingue.
(Ref.: W. Rey/Uruguay).

Nacional (3) 7 (Artime 5, Celio, Mamelli)
San Lorenzo (1) 2 (Gonzalez, Ayala)

Nacional: Manga; Ubina, Brunell; Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez; Prieto (Morales), Celio (Mamelli), Artime, Maneiro, Cubilla.
San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Rendo (Rodriguez), Sconfianza, Albrecht (Gatto); Ayala, Esposito, Fischer, Gonzalez, Garcia Ameijenda.
(Ref.: R. Barreto/Uruguay).

FEBRUARY 5

Nacional (0) 2 (Anchetta, Morales)
Penarol (1) 2 (Rocha 2)

Nacional: Manga; Ubina (Blanco), Brunell; Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez (Mamelli); Prieto, Celio (Morales), Artime, Maneiro, Cubilla.
Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Cortes, Figueroa, Matosas; Acuna (Viera), Caceres, Onega (E.), Rocha, Losada.
(Ubina and Onega sent-off after 39 minutes).
(Ref.: R. Barreto/Uruguay).

FINAL PLACINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.
Nacional	5	4	1	0	20	6	9
Penarol	5	2	3	0	10	5	7
San Lorenzo	5	2	2	1	12	13	6
Corinthians	5	1	2	2	7	5	4
River Plate	5	2	0	3	11	15	4
Red Star	5	0	0	5	3	19	0

SANTIAGO DE CHILE INTER-CLUB TOURNAMENT

JANUARY 22

Colo Colo (Chile) (1) 4 (Zelada, Ramos Delgado o.g., Caszelly, Reynoso) 70,000
Santos (Brazil) (1) 3 (Herrera o.g., Pele, Rildo)

Colo Colo: Araya; Yavar, Arias; Reynoso, Cruz, Herrera; Zelada, Ramirez, Beiroth, Arancibia (Sanchez), Caszelly.
Santos: Joel Mendes; Carlos Alberto, Rildo; Clodoaldo, Ramos Delgado, Joel Camargo; Manoel Maria, Nene, Coutinho (Douglas), Pele, Abel.
(Ref.: D. Massero/Chile).

(Jan. 22): **Universidad De Chile** 1 **Universidad Católica** (Chile) 1. Att. 70,000.

(Jan. 25): **Universidad De Chile** (0) 0 **Dynamo Zagreb** (1) 3 (Rora 2, Novak). Att. 52,000. (Ref.: J. Amor/Chile). **Colo Colo** (0) 1 (Reynoso) **America** (Mexico) (1) 1 (Basanguren). Att. 52,000.

Continued Next Month

Partizan triumph

from STELLAN DANIELSSON

THE 1970 edition of the traditional international tournament, played during the first months each year, was won by strong and impressive Partizan from Yugoslavia.

The Mexicans, who are in the process of experimenting in order to find the strongest possible side in time for the "Campeonato Mundial", disappointed their fans by securing only one victory, against Spartak Trnava, in four games. The National team somewhat warned of their possible failure in the tournament beforehand by deciding to call themselves "First Division Combination" and then deciding not to play in their regular kit.

Partizan played well all through the tournament, and in their decisive game against the Mexican XI, which ended in a 1-1 draw, demonstrated their class, especially in the second half when they were almost constantly attacking the Mexican goalmouth, by playing well and making the result a very flattering one for the Mexicans.

Since their disappointing showing in the International Tournament the Mexican National team, no longer calling themselves "First Division Combination", has greatly regained prestige among their own critical fans and abroad.

Making a few changes in his team squad, coach Cardenas has succeeded in putting a breath of fresh air into the somewhat tired looking national side. The most important newcomers are three players from Atlante, Ernesto Cisneros, Ignacio Basaguren, and the most important one debutant Marcos Rivas. During a recent visit to Chile they reinforced America who participated in a tournament there.

The turning point was the second game against Bulgaria, played before a capacity crowd in Leon, when in the second half Cardenas made two important substitutions, sending on Basaguren, who hasn't represented his country since the 1968 Olympics, and Rivas, first time International, putting new life into the Mexican team.

The Mexicans played well, very well, all through the second half and succeeded in scoring two goals, one of them by Rivas and the other by Basaguren.

The second important step forward was the encounter with Russia. The game ended in a draw, but the Mexicans played well for 90 minutes and really deserved victory. If they repeat the performance against the Russians on May 31 they should be very close to the quarter-finals. The Mexican team dominated most of the game, and the only thing they lacked was a goal — the most important detail in football and the biggest problem for the Mexicans right now.

As I write the Mexicans have just been defeated by Sweden in a match of low quality. The Swedes, in Mexico in order to get used to playing on the site of the World Cup, and also getting in some early practice—the weather in Sweden preventing serious training — slowed down the tempo to suit their conditioning at this time.

The next games for Mexico will be in Lima against Peru, and the National team squad at the time before the take-off to the country of the Incas looks like this:

Goalkeepers: Nacho Calderon, Guadalajara; Paco Castrejon, Universidad; Hugo Pineda, Monterrey; Antonio Mota, Nexaca.

Backs: Alejandrez, Sanchez Galindo, Gustavo Peña, Javier Guzman, and Jorge Arevalo, all Cruz Azul; Nuñez and Pichojos, both America; Pepe Vantolra, Toluca, and Pablo Montes, Veracruz; Ramirez, Atlas.

Half-backs: Munguia and Pulido from Cruz Azul; Onofre, Guadalajara; Campeon Hernandez, America; Gonzalez, Universidad; Isidoro Diaz, Leon.

Forwards: Enrique Borja, Javier Fragoso, and Horacio Lopez Salgado, all America; Ernesto Cisneros, Ignacio Basaguren, and Marcos Rivas, all Atlante; Carlos Calderon, Javier Valdivia, and Willy Gomez, all Guadalajara; Fernando Bustos, from Cruz Azul; Vicente Pereda, from Toluca, and Aaron Padilla, Universidad.

While the National team is getting ready for the Campeonato Mundial, the non-selected players have just completed the fourth round of the extra, and until late last year unscheduled "Championship 70".

Last season's champions Guadalajara, fresh from their participation in the International Tournament, were one of the first teams to start the new championship in a game in the Jalisco Stadium against Leon.

The champions could not have wished for a better start as they scored four goals within 35 minutes, the first three by Carlos Calderon, identical twin brother to teammate and National team goalkeeper Nacho Calderon. Carlos, along with two other Guadalajara attackers, Javier Valdivia and home town favourite Willi Gomez, have since been called on to serve in the National pre-World Cup squad.

The present "Mexico 70 Championship" will be played in two phases, the first one to end on May 10. Last season's finishers have been divided into two groups depending on last year's placings.

In this manner teams coming in on even numbers, 2, 4, 6, etc., play in one group, and the teams coming on odd numbers, 1, 3, 5, etc., play in another group.

Each group will be finished by May 10, and then in July after the World Cup the second phase of the tournament will start putting the first four finishers in one championship group, and the last four in a degradation group.

'LAST OF THE GOOD LOSERS'

Novelist and sports writer Brian Glanville — a regular WORLD SOCCER contributor— will be featured in the **LAST OF THE GOOD LOSERS,** a programme in the BBC-2 series (One Pair of Eyes) to be screened on April 4, at 8.15 p.m.

Brian looks beyond the headlines of sport and is concerned with what happens off the field of play to those who make the headlines. He is also concerned with the sinister overtones of hero-worship in sport and talks to Francis Lee, Pat Crerand, Charlie Cooke, Robbie Brightwell and Ann Packer.

Brian is pictured left with Charlie Cooke and two of his own children.

Greig and McNeill NOT to blame . . .

RESULT of the Scottish Cup Quarter Final: Celtic 3, Rangers 1; attendance 75,000; 22 people arrested and fined £820; one unfortunate stabbed; three players booked; one player sent off.

And at the end of it all, TWO MEN taking the biggest rap Scottish football has known in years and years of these trouble-torn "Old Firm" derby matches which split Scotland right down the middle.

The men who carried the blame, apportioned by Glasgow's J.P.s, were the respective captains, Billy McNeil of Celtic and John Greig of Rangers.

Both these fine half-backs, long-standing Scottish international footballers who have played in most parts of the world, had their names taken by FIFA referee Tom Wharton **(writes JOHN STONE).**

Perhaps both deserved that fate, but I cannot for the life of me see how Glasgow's magistrates, the men who have to deal with the trouble-mongers from the terraces at Monday morning Court sessions, can blame McNeill and Greig for most of the trouble in this latest horrible head-on collision at Celtic Park.

The smoke of this soccer battle was still smouldering, with all its religious undertones, 48 hours after Mr. Wharton called a halt to hostilities.

Things were not helped when Glasgow's magistrates wrote to the S.F.A., openly criticising the two team captains for much of the trouble.

In their letter of protest at the latest disgraceful clash of Scotland's soccer giants, the Glasgow magistrates accused McNeill and Greig of failing to live up to their responsibilities . . .

JOHN GREIG.

Of failing to set a proper example on that hostile field of play . . .

And of failing to make certain that their team-mates conducted themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

That so-controversial letter also condemned the behaviour of both teams, and demanded disciplinary action against the guilty men.

Bailie William McCredie, a self-confessed socer fan and the city's senior magistrate, was soon quoted on the subject thus:

"If players are allowed to carry on as they did on Saturday and get away without being punished it will do the game no good. What we want is 22 players to get out on the field and play football—and stop at that."

He then insisted that both captains had failed to accept the referee's decisions and had failed to do the job they were chosen for.

Bailie McCredie, incidentally, did not see this latest Celtic Park punch-up.

DECISION

He also conceded that he did not know how many of his fellow magistrates were at the match, but said the decision to write to the S.F.A. was taken primarily on a report by the City's Chief Constable.

"The view of magistrates who attended the game—not officially—and those who saw highlights on television were also taken into consideration," the Bailie added.

"The S.F.A. are the disciplinary authority over their players and we are writing to them hoping this will lead to some improvement.

"We are leaving it up to them meantime, and it will depend on their reaction what further action, if any, will be taken."

The S.F.A., on receipt of the magistrates' letter, said it would be given serious consideration.

BOOKING

But surely, Mr. Wharton, the man in control of the match, dished out the punishments he felt were appropriate to the on-field crimes . . . booking three players and ordering off another.

No doubt, Bailie McCredie and his colleagues have the very best interests not of professional players, but the public and professional football in Scotland as a whole, very much at heart.

But I cannot help but go along with Rangers' manager Willie Waddell in feeling that the criticisms of Greig and McNeill are unfair.

Waddell insists: "A captain holds certain responsibilities on the field, but cannot be blamed under any circumstances for the conduct of highly-tuned professional footballers."

No one is attempting to deny the fact that the players of both Celtic and Rangers left much to be desired both in their football and in their conduct.

Yet they **do** come under the direct control of a match referee, and that match referee saw fit to take three names and order one player off.

This is in no way a criticism of Tom Wharton. Nor is it in any way a suggestion that he was as firm as he might have been.

CAPTAIN

That, in the circumstances, is not the point as far as I am concerned.

When a city's Justices start writing to a country's football association, the situation is undoubtedly black.

But I cannot for the life of me see why Billy McNeill and John Greig should carry the can between them.

Just how far does the job of captaining a football team go . . . and how far do some people think one individual can take his captain's position?

MAX MERKEL, manager of Seville. (NC)

The problem facing the Spanish FA . . .

NEWS is bursting out all over in Spain . . . we've never had it so good. Yet in spite of this, the sensational struggle for the League title and the International side's progress, importation is still the main talking point in all circles.

The Ministry of Sport, having received the Football Federation's observations, is still studying the proposals . . . yet everyone already seems to think that the Minister's answer will be a qualified "Yes."

Club's fearful of being left on the shelf are very much jumping the gun. Barcelona have signed a provisional contract with Johan Cruyff (Ajax) for a reported £130,000. Real Mallorca say they have initiated talks with Van Moer, the Standard Liege star and are continuing their search in Belgium. Seville are looking towards Brazil, Zaragoza to the Argentine and Valencia want Dragan Dzajic, of Red Star. Belgrade. Meanwhile football intermediaries are scurrying around like scalded cats and running up huge telephone bills.

Among the volume of evidence being examined by the Ministry are the "circumstances and effects" of Spain's previous open door period and Italy's "honeymoon with foreign players."

Today in the Italian first division are 16 foreign players plus Sormani and Altafini, considered Italian by reason of having played (somehow) in Italy's 1962 World Cup side. These are the only survivors of over a hundred who flocked to Italy during their "free for all" period when the country was known as the "Klondike of football."

The 16 are shared by Inter-Milan—Jair and Suarez, Juventus—Del Sol and Haller, A.C. Milan—Combin, Schnellinger and Sormani, Rome—Reiro and Benitez, Verona—Clerici and Toro and Cagliari—Nene. Florentina has the tempestuous Amarildo, sent off twice this season, Morrone has been with Lazio for ten years and Napole have Hamrim, the longest serving foreigner (14 years) and Altafini, 12 years service and 190 plus goals. Sampdoria has the Swede, Nielsen and Lanerossi Vicenza, Cinesinho.

Most of these players are world famous, hold a regular place in their club sides and command fabulous financial rewards. Many of them are brilliant and complete footballers. But has their presence in Italy brought the results that Spain's legislators hope their proposed open door will produce? I don't think so. Italy tried it and didn't like it. Why should it be any different in Spain?

Spain would do well to follow England's example—as they are doing in so many ways—and shut the door tight.

Importations or not—permanent or temporary—the Ministry of Physical Education and Sport and the Spanish F.A., are certainly not fogetting the development of their own players. At least they are looking that way. . . . at last.

A Central School of Football is to be constructed on the outskirts of Madrid where young and promising players from all parts of the country will be nursed and coached to football maturity.

The Ministry has presented to the Spanish F.A. 45,000 square metres of land acquired from the National Trust—and a sum of £90,000 for the construction of the necessary installations. The National School of Coaching, whose director is D. Jose Villalonga, Spain's 1966 World Cup manager, will probably form the basis of the coaching staff. I hope they can produce some coaching ideas a little more modern than the late forties.

* * *

Atletico Bilbao players received £300 each for their sensational victory over Real Madrid. That is £150 official club bonus and £150 from a local supporter. This rash gentleman promised each Bilbao player £30 for every goal scored. Atletico won 5-0 which set the supporter back £1,650 plus £600 to a local charity.

In my notes the Bilbao boys missed at least four other goals. Perhaps it was just as well . . . for the supporter.

On the other hand . . . money doesn't always talk. It didn't in Milan. Four days before the Barcelona-Inter Milan Fairs Cup second leg (previously abandoned through fog) the Spanish players, who lost 1-2 at home, were promised £600 if they eliminated Inter.

Even that wasn't enough. They drew 1-1 and Inter. Milan went through to the next round. How desperate can a club get for success and survival?

Incidentally super-headline catcher, Max

Imports —Yes or No?

FROM

NORMAN CUTLER

Merkel, has just cost Seville something in the region of £18,000. They outbid two Italian clubs, in definite contact, and renewed his contract at that figure for another year.

Seville, in fact, were quite bright. They tied up Merkel just before the Spain-West Germany international match in Seville, to which several German clubs representatives were known to be bringing rosy enticements for the Austrian manager. When they arrived it was too late. The cupboard was bare.

This makes Max Merkel Spain's highest paid manager, although I understand that Ronnie Allen is not doing too badly at Bilbao. Seville's point of view is . . . he has put us among the top clubs in one season, in two he'll make us champions. That, I would say, is rather optimistic. There's no record as to what the over-disciplined players say . . . they are not allowed to talk. If only they could!

At the same time the Second Division Espanol sacked their famous Brazilian manager, Fernando Riera . . . who was drawing £14,000 a year. The Barcelona club, who must return to the first division this season to survive, had just lost four points.

Riera, once manager of Benfica, wasn't unduly worried. He had already provisionally signed to manage Belenenses (Portugal) next season. But alas came the news that the Portuguese club's board had resigned. So Fernando Riera was out . . . in . . . and out of a job all within 48 hours.

Another managerial change has been the departure of local idol, Luis Molowny, from Las Palmas. The former Real Madrid star, architect of the Canary Isle club's great success during the last three years, hasn't been able to stop the alarming and mystifying decline this season. Desperate measures were necessary. Taking over the hot seat is Rosendo Hernandez, Real Zaragoza's chief coach and former manager of Elche and Las Palmas (1964).

Molowny is the seventh (of 16) Division One managers to lose his job this season.

AGENTS

In Milan, I met up with Gerado Sagnella, one of Italy's top football agents, who is a popular and outspoken T.V. commentator, and specialist in South American football.

It is his opinion that there are few real figures in football today. "The chief demand, everywhere, is for good players who can score goals. There are none about at the moment."

He spoke of securing Santos of Brazil players and when I expressed surprise that they are willing to sell, said: "They will release players . . . but only at the right price. I can get Edu (Pele's partner) for £200,000 and Rivellino of Corinthians for £180,000 . . . which isn't very much by Italian standards."

And of Spain's possible entry into the Common Football Market he commented: "Now is the time for Spain to get the best available players comparatively cheap. If Italy opens the door again, as they might after the World Cup, prices will rise enormously."

Sagnella also confessed that in 1964 he tried to negotiate the transfer of Amancio for an Italian club. "I offered 60 million pesetas (£360,000) but Real Madrid said 'No'. Since then Italy has shown little interest in Spanish players."

I have NO comment.

* * *

It's certain that Vic Buckingham and his shadow, Ted Drake will renew their contracts with Barcelona and continue next season. Reorganisation plans, drawn up by President Augustin Montal and Buckingham indicate that the club will retain only nine of their 25 registered players . . . and bypass all pre-season competitions and tournaments.

Little information, official that is, comes from Barcelona nowadays, except, through Mr. Buckingham and he rarely talks. But the players retained . . it's an "informed secret" are Reina, Sadurni, Eladio, Torres, Gallego, Rexach, Marcial, Bustillo and Pujol . . . all internationals.

DOOMED

The future of two clubs has already been decided. It's promotion for Real Gijon, already champions of the second division, and relegation from the first division for Pontevedra, doomed for weeks.

Perhaps the most intriguing news is the possibility of an Italian-Spanish League Competition. It's only in the embryo stage, but it has been talked about by the two Presidents of the two associations, D. Jose Luis Costa and Signor Franchi.

The idea is that several Division One clubs from each country take part in a Combined Spanish-Italian League. There will be problems . . . chiefly dates clashing with domestic and European Competitions . . . and probably opposition from the Union of European Football Associations.

But Señor Costa, being a member of the Executive Committee, may well have cleared that obstacle.

But it will definitely create tremendous interest in Spain and the man on the terrace is already visualising a league comprising of, say, Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Atletico, Bilbao, Barcelona, Valencia, Cagliari, Inter. Milan, Roma, A.C. Milan and Juventus. That would really be something.

* * *

Another idea rapidly gaining Spanish club support is the suggested Reserve Team Competition.

At the moment no Spanish club has a reserve team, simply because regulations forbid the registration of more than 25 league competition players. As a result some players rarely, sometimes never, appear in a competitive game. It is a weakness in the league structure that many feel is retarding football in Spain.

The famous manager, Sabino Barinaga, who is sponsoring the project, suggests the first and second division clubs (36 in all) be divided into three convenient zones . . . and that the whole scheme be run under competition regulations, with whatever adjustments the Federation deem necessary. Naturally it will be necessary to legislate for the incorporation of promising amateur and juveniles to bring teams to the required numbers.

But the advantages are obvious. All players will play competitive football and remain match fit . . . injured first team players will be able to recuperate through competitive games . . . loss of form can be regained through the new tournament—and so on.

The only doubt is, will the gate money from these matches—and crowds **will** *be limited—cover travelling and additional expenses? No one wants to place more burdens on the economy of hard pressed clubs. Baringa and the club presidents and managers who agree with the idea, say "Yes."*

VALENCIA: Back row left to right; Pesudo, Sol, Barrachini, Vidagany, Roberto, Anton, Front row: Poli, Paquito, Nebot, Claramunt, Collar. (NC)

USSFA FACE STORM

from COLIN JOSE

A POWER struggle between the United States Soccer Football Association (USSFA) and the American Soccer League (ASL), which goes back over a number of years, may have placed in jeopardy the future of the North America Soccer League (NASL).

This unbelievable situation which could see the leading soccer club in the United States — the Washington Darts — stopped from playing in the NASL, all stems from a postponed game in the ASL as far back as 1968. If as a result of this the Darts are prevented from playing in the NASL this season then that organisation might well collapse through a lack of teams, thereby doing irreparable harm to the promotion of soccer in the United States.

While as everyone realises, the NASL is hardly the best soccer league in the world, it is vitally important to American soccer that it continue to exist, that the organisation whose job it is to foster soccer in the United States should be doing anything to place a question mark over its future, leads one to wonder if the USSFA is acting in the best interests of the game.

To get to the bottom of the current problem one has to go back to the situation in the ASL before that league admitted the Washington Darts and the Rochester Lancers into membership in 1967. Up until that time the ASL had been an insignificant organisation consisting almost exclusively of teams from ethnic groups who did little or nothing to promote soccer among native-born Americans. In fact their actions on many occasions drove even their own people away.

Discipline

The constitution of the ASL gave a great deal of power to the USSFA, and the league often found itself powerless to act in its own best interests. For example, it had no right to discipline its member clubs, something that is unquestionable in most leagues in other nations, and this has led to the present serious trouble.

When Rochester and Washington joined they attempted to change this and many other things with the object of getting the league to act in the best interests of the game, and as a result of their efforts, in 1969 the ASL enjoyed the finest year in its 35-year history.

Possession

At the beginning, however, their ideas were resented by certain clubs and certain people who in their own interests wished to maintain the status quo, but despite this the new clubs were able to obtain enough support to set two very important motions into operation. Firstly the league clubs asked to see their own books, which at the time were in the possession of the USSFA, and secondly they drew up a new constitution making the league virtually independent of the direct control of the USSFA.

For 18 months the ASL pressed for the return of its books eventually giving up in frustration, but they did not give up on the constitution. Each time they submitted it to the national body for ratification it was returned as a result of some small point that the USSFA did not agree with. Altogether it went back and forth some nine times in 18 months without being accepted. One of the main objections of the USSFA being that it gave the president of the ASL too much power.

In the last year the ASL, acting as if the amended constitution had been approved, made two decisions which the USSFA considered illegal. Firstly they awarded the 1968 ASL championship to the Washington Darts because New York Inter, after asking for a regularly scheduled game to be postponed, failed to replay the game on the date directed by the then league president, Mr. Charles Schiano, of Rochester. This decision was taken on October 11, 1969, by all the clubs then in membership, with the exception of Newark, who were not present at the meeting.

Scheduled

On the second occasion that the ASL took matters into its own hands it was to revoke the New York Inter franchise for refusing to play their regularly scheduled game in Washington in 1969, a direct carry over of the Washington-New York trouble of the previous year. The Darts sued Inter for $100,000 in this little matter and the case is still pending.

The whole affair became extremely complicated when both Washington and Rochester were accepted as members of the NASL for the 1970 season. In so doing Mr. Schiano resigned as president of the ASL and his place was taken by Mr. Alex Hemphill, the general manager of the Philadelphia Spartans. Although his club was a party to the decisions taken by the ASL, Mr. Hemphill now feels that they were illegal and has informed Washington that until the problems surrounding their dispute with New York in 1968 are settled he cannot accept their resignation from the ASL.

He has also informed New York that in view of the illegal actions taken he would be giving them the opportunity to reactivate their franchise. Up to the present moment Inter have not availed themselves of the opportunity.

Resignation

Rochester's resignation from the ASL has also been blocked because the ASL "thinks" that they owe the Philadelphia Ukrainians $1,200.

Ironically since Mr. Hemphill took office the USSFA has seen fit to accept the amended ASL constitution, but it has come at a time when that league itself is close to collapse having slumped from eight clubs in 1969 to a possible four for 1970.

If from the very beginning the USSFA had exhibited any kind of leadership at all, this storm in a tea-cup would never have been allowed to develop, and the whole dispute would have been cleared up within hours rather than to have dragged on for 15 months.

In view of their actions in this and other matters over recent years one is obviously prompted to ask: "Is the USSFA trying to promote soccer, or is it trying to hinder its growth?"

Violation

Certainly some action should have been taken against the New York club and the decision the ASL took was undoubtedly the right one. Instead the USSFA is actually condoning a club who fail to fulfil their obligations propertly, yet in the case of Washington, one of the handful of clubs who have done the game some good, they are indirectly punishing them when they were the victims. If the USSFA cannot handle such a small matter as this, however can they expect to handle the World Cup?

During this same season the USSFA alowed one organisation, which operates a number of teams, to have players signed on for two clubs at the same time in direct violation of rules 23 and 29; there is also reason to believe that some of these player were using false names. Such actions can only do the utmost harm to the game.

A United States team was conspicuous by its absence from the recent CONCACAF tournament despite the announcement in the USSFA "National Development Plan" to develop national teams at professional, amateur and youth levels.

The nucleus was there, left over from the World Cup, and surely the problem was not money when the US national association could hold their annual convention in a lavish hotel in Miami. But then perhaps they are promoting conventions and not soccer.

Toluca goalkeeper Silva clears from attacking Necaxa forwards Javan and Linares (striped shirts) during a recent league game in the Aztec Stadium. The game ended 0-0. (SD)

The return of Ignacio Trelles

BY

CARLOS RAMIREZ

NO, this is not a detective story—but it surely deserves being one. In a previous correspondence, I mentioned how confused Mr. Cañedo (head of the Mexican football organisation) was. Construction of 250 new boxes in the Aztec Stadium was stopped by the city governor, since it was a violation of the contract signed with all previous box holders. Later, the national side played badly in the "Torneo Pentagonal" (also participated Partizan of Yugoslavia, Botafogo of Brazil, Spartak of Czechoslovakia and Mexican champions Guadalajara) finishing in second place. And the Pentagonal started under heavy criticism. The story goes like this:

Back in 1968, three big commercial firms (soft drink, beer and a bank) paid the Mexican Federation of Football 15,000,000 pesos (1.15 million dollars) for the TV and radio rights of all matches to be played by the Mexican side from 1968 throughout the World Cup. The money, paid in advance, was supposed to finance the preparation of the team.

SATELLITE

The first blow came during the European tour — Mr. Cañedo forgot that matches played in Europe (or anywhere else for that matter) belong financially to the organising federation. Coupling this situation with the boycott declared by the European Television Union against the TV right holders (Telesistema Mexicano), because of the now famous quarrel with the BBC, a competing Mexican channel (TV-8) purchased the rights to televise via satellite the matches Mexico played against Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium and Sweden last April. To worsen the situation, sponsors of these telecasts were direct competitors of the commercial firms originally financing the team.

The situation was poorly handled. Cañedo lost the faith of his sponsors, who decided to sublease their TV and radio rights to most of the matches played by the Mexican team prior to the World Cup. But since they in turn had the exclusivity of the national side, they did not allow the Mexican national side to participate as such in the Pentagonal. The Federation called it "Combinado Mexicano", a mere legal technicality which allowed them to televise the matches with another sponsorship.

EXPENSES

Unfortunately, the players were denied the right to collect salary bonuses, expenses, etc., as if it were the official national side, thus creating a near protest-strike on their part prior to the decisive match against Partizan.

But there was more to come. Or rather, there was going to be somebody to come: Nacho Trelles. Trelles, head coach of the Mexican side since 1958, was unceremoniously kicked out in 1969 after the disastrous European tour, in spite of several statements made to the press by Mr. Cañedo as to the permanency of the 48-year-old coach.

Trelles then returned quietly to his old position as head coach of the Toluca team (two national championships and two North - Central - American - Caribbean zone clubs cup won). But after a storm of criticism against the Mexican team, he was recalled in February, 1970, as "technical assessor".

SITUATION

Openly, he declared: "I said last year I would never return to the national side; but this was a matter of money." He replaces Alejandro Scopelli, the old Argentinian player, now head coach of Mr. Cañedo's team, América.

The situation as it now stands, shows Trelles in a staff position, advising his old subordinate player and coach, Raúl Cárdenas. Apparently, Cárdenas will keep entire command of the team; but how far and for how long a time, nobody really knows. The funny part of it is that after Cárdenas took over, the record of the national side stands as follows: Eight victories: 3-0 Perou, 1-0 Universidad de Chile, 4-0 Necaxa, 1-0 Belgium, 4-0 Norway, 2-1 Atvidaberg of Sweden, 2-0 Bulgaria and 4-2 Spartak Travna of Czechoslovakia. Six draws: 0-0 England, 0-0 Atvidaberg, 0-0 Botafogo, 1-1 Partizan, 2-2 Guadalajara, 1-1 Bulgary. Only three defeats: 1-0 Perou, 4-0 England and 2-0 Guadalajara.

The team is shaping up, mainly because there are not many players available of World Cup class. Calderón (who recently underwent an operation, but will recover in a few weeks) is the goalkeeper; Sánchez Galindo, Peña, Núñez or Guzmán and Pérez the backs; Isidoro Díaz, Onofre, José Luis González the midfield men, and Bustos, Basaguren, Fragoso, Borja and Padilla the forwards.

Others available: goalkeepers Castrejón, Pineda and Mota; backs, Alejándrez, Hernández, Arévalo, Ventolrá and Montes; midfield, Pulido, Ponce and Munguía; forwards, Cisneros, López Salgado, Carlos Calderón (twin brother to the goalkeeper Ignacio) and Rivas.

Spain Win — Comfortably

West German Newsletter from ARTHUR ROTMIL

WOLFGANG OVERATH. (LPA)

WEST GERMANY'S first pre-World Cup test ended in a disappointing 0-2 defeat by Spain in Seville on February 11. Apart from the result itself, even more sobering were the shaky displays of such experienced stalwarts as Schulz, Schnellinger and Haller, plus the failure of an attacking 4-2-4 system including two orthodox wingers, which may now persuade manager Helmut Schön to revert into a more defensive formation.

In the search for excuses one could point to the unfortunate absence of Beckenbauer, who cried off when his young son, Michael, was suddenly taken ill, plus the injured Overath. In addition, Sigi Held was left out of the original squad because of imminent exams for a coaching diploma, while goalkeeper Horst Wolter was rested in favour of Manglitz. Whether the established midfield pair of Beckenbauer-Overath would have made any difference to the team remains of course highly debatable. But it must not be overlooked that the new, eager Spanish side, now managed by the great Kubala, gave a fine demonstration of skilful, controlled football which on the day would have proved too good for many other teams. They helped to restore some of the sagging prestige of their country which, for the first time ever, does not have a representative in the quarter-finals of any European club competition.

Alas, Spain are not going to Mexico but the Germans are. Their only crumb of comfort was the fine display of goalkeeper Manfred Manglitz who prevented a heavier defeat, and on this showing will pose a serious threat to first choice Sepp Maier. In defence only Bertie Vogts emerged with some credit, which up front captain Uwe Seeler was the best forward, at least in the first half. But the biggest disappointments were the other veterans Schulz, Schnellinger and Haller. The latter failed to organise attacks with the result that the wingers, Libuda and Grabowski, were starved for long periods, while the redoubtable goalgetter Müller was also left to fend for himself with little success. Two dreadful errors by Schnellinger led to both goals by Arieta in the 17th and 41st minutes, to decide the match. First Schnellinger stood still during a free-kick, alowing Arieta to burst through, and then he headed straight to the feet of the scorer.

This setback has saddled Schön with several problems. Can he afford to dispense with his most experienced men who could have had an off-day and will he get another opportunity of fielding Haller and Schnellinger who may not be released again by their Italian clubs before May? The experiment of launching two old-fashioned, touchline-hugging wingers Libuda and Grabowski was not a success, although here the blame must be put mainly on the poor service from midfield where—apart from Haller—Netzer once again failed to live up to his club form.

Team (the first figure behind the name denotes age and the second the number of caps): Manfred Manglitz (Cologne) 30/3; Berti Vogts (Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach) 23/21, Willi Schulz (Hamburger SV) 31/62, Wolfgang Weber (Cologne) 25/35, Karl-Heinz Schnellinger (AC Milan) 30/39; Helmut Haller (Juventus) 30/31, Günter Netzer (Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach) 25/14; Reinhard Libuda (Schalke) 27/14, Gerhard Müller (Bayern Munich) 24/16, Uwe Seeler (Hamburger SV) 33/63, Jürgen Grabowski (Eintracht Frankfurt) 25/5.

RECALLED

Manglitz, incidentally, established a new "record", for he became the first German 'keeper to be recalled to the national side after an absence of five years. This has not happened before, as the previous longest break was four years and concerns Günter Bernard of Werder Bremen. After playing against France and Switzerland in 1962, Bernard had to wait till 1966 before gaining two further caps versus Holland and Northern Ireland. There had also been three-year intervals for other custodians like Christian Schmidt (1910-1913), Paul Gehlhaar (1928-1931), Guünter Sawitzki (1960-1963), Fritz Ewert (1960-1963) and Hans Tilkowski (1961-1964). Manglitz was previously selected twice in 1965, against Italy in Hamburg (as substitute for Tilkowski) and v. Cyprus at Karlsruhe.

The record number of German caps is held by full-back Paul Janes (Fortuna Düsseldorf) who between 1932 and 1942 played 71 times during a series of 108 internationals. Ernst Lehner (Augsburg) needed nine years (1933-1942) for his 65 caps within a total of 101 games. Uwe Seeler managed 63 call-ups out of a possible 120 in 15 years. Fritz Walter's career was hampered by the war, yet he appeared 61 times (out of 82) between 1940 and 1958. Finally, Willi Schulz required ten years (1959-1969) for his 62 caps out of a possible 80.

On January 28 the DFB (FA) celebrated quietly the 70th anniversary of its foundation. Thirty-six delegates representing 86 clubs who met in Leipzig in 1900, founded the Deutscher Fussball Bund whose influence then stretched far, far into the East and territories which now belong to Poland and Russia. Now, the DFB reformed in 1949, controls according to the latest statistics, 16,292 clubs with 2,722,503 active players!

Only the Soviet Union can boast of a higher number of footballers in the world, but of course it has a population four times bigger than West Germany. Since 1903, when the first championship was completed, 27 clubs have won the title headed by 1. FC Nürnberg the "Rekordmeisters" with nine wins. The DFB's most important steps in post-war years have been the creation of the National League (Bundesliga) and the introduction of the so-called licensed (professional) players.

In 1974 the German FA will stage the greatest event in its history, the next World Cup finals. The games will take place in 12 cities, namely West Berlin, Münich, Düsseldorf, Gelsenkirchen, Frankfurt, Ludwigshafen, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Hannover, Dortmund and Nürnberg. At all these venues the grounds will be modernised and extended at a total cost of 200-240 million D.Marks (£20-£24 million). The stadium in Cologne will offer 30,000 seats and room for 40,000 standing, all under cover. Berlin's Olympic Stadium will have all-seated accommodation for 77,000, including 22,000 under cover. Frankfurt will provide 26,000

seats and a 12,000 standing enclosure under a roof, with a total capacity of 70,000. Nürnberg's ground will hold 67,000, of which 30,000 will be seated. Münich, of course, will benefit from its new Olympic stadium already being built for the 1972 Games, for an estimated 100,000 crowd.

The organising costs—roughly £700,000—will be borne entirely by the DFB. Most of the money will come from bank loans but also from sales of special stamps and commemorative coins.

On the strictly domestic scene there have been some further developments concerning several managers. Yugoslav-born Branco Zebec will fulfil his contract with Bayern Münich until the end of the season before taking charge of VfB Stuttgart. The longest-serving coach in the Bundesliga, Helmut Johannsen, leaves Eintracht Brunswick after seven years in office to join Hannover without even changing his domicile, for he intends to cover the 40 miles daily by car. His place at Brunswick goes to a comparative newcomer, Otto Knefler, who has signed a two-year contract. Finally (figuratively speaking!) Werder Bremen's boss, Fritz Rebell, is retiring at the age of 65 and will be relieved by "Zapf" Gebhardt—who in turn is quitting MSV Duisburg.

OVERLOADED

But the biggest talking point remains the overloaded league programme which is now stretched to the limit with virtually all mid-week dates filled until May 2, which is the date fixed for the last championship round. The catastrophic weather has led to a record number of postponements and now even the cup quarter-finals have been put off till the start of next season!

Despite the fact that the Germans usually play in the worst conditions anywhere in Europe, it is incredible to report that only one club, Schalke, have just thought of acquiring a plastic cover to protect the pitch. Ironically enough Schalke were, until February 14, the only Bundesliga club who had never suffered a home match cancellation.

The pile-up of fixtures threatens the national side individually and collectively. Players are not so much worried by the heavy programmes as by the increased risk of injury with little or no time to heal before the World Cup engagements.

In the title race of the trio of Borussia München-Gladbach, Cologne and Bayern have detached themselves from the field and will most likely decide the honours during the final run-in. Borussia shocked their followers when they slumped to an unexpected 1-2 home defeat by Eintracht Frankfurt. It was their first home reverse of the season, in fact the first since April 19(!) when they also lost to Frankfurt. The visitors celebrated their first away win and are still the only team who have never been beaten in Gladbach.

Borussia recovered brilliantly, however, by slamming Kaiserslautern 4-1 away and followed up with a 4-2 home success over Dortmund. Perhaps the most impressive form was shown by Cologne who collected maximum points from four games thanks to victories over 1860 Münich (2-1 h), Alemannia Aachen (3-1 a), Hertha Berlin (5-1 h) and VfB Stuttgart (3-0 a). In the last game Bernd Rupp hit a hat-trick but the most dazzling performer on view was once again Wolfgang Overath. Amazing to recall that this club had been fighting against relegation for most of last season.

Bayern Münich have also gained ground when following a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Kaiserslautern they won 3-1 at Dortmund and then thrashed Brunswick 5-1 at home. Gerd Müller, the scorer of 23 goals in 19 games, has at last caught up with Lothar Emmerich as the Bundesliga's top goalgetter—both have 115 to their credit.

Bayern still miss their Austrian star Gustl Starek, absent since September 16 after a cartilage operation. He may lose his astonishing sequence after winning three successive championship medals with Rapid Vienna (1967, Nürnberg (1968) and Bayern (1969). New faces with Bayern next term will include another Austrian international Hans Ettmayer (Wacker Innsbruck) as well as the amateurs Uli Hoeness and Edgar Schneider. The 18-year-old Hoeness is rated the most promising amateur in Germany and has followed the national amateur coach Udo Lattek who is taking over at Bayern. But young Uli will retain his amateur status until the 1972 Olympics, in accordance with a pledge he gave to the DFB.

The other Münich outfit 1860 have also provided headlines with their courageous bid to escape relegation. New manager, the Austrian Franz Binder, has worked miracles and with three wins on the trot the "Lions" moved up to 15th place. The biggest discovery is their 20-year-old centre-forward, Klaus Fischer, who has already scored 15 goals. But even more cheering are the displays of the "veterans" like Fredy Heiss (29) who has been turning out for the "old boys" team, and Rudi Kölbl (32) who returned via Italy and Austria Salzburg. Another distinguished senior, their Yugoslav 'keeper, Petar Radenkovic (35), has also contributed to the team effort when he saved a penalty against Hannover. It was his ninth save from the spot—easily a Bundesliga record.

P.S. Whatever might happen in Mexico, the Germans are sure to be represented in every match. Five hundred footballs made in this country have already arrived in Mexico. The best 106 will be used in the World Cup games, while 40 are intended for practice. Good news for TV viewers—they are all black and white spotted!

HORST HOTTGES. (LPA)

DECLINE OF REAL AND BENFICA

BENFICA and Real Madrid, once the most feared clubs in Europe, are in retreat. And as they have slipped, so too has Portuguese and Spanish soccer.

The decline of Benfica was pinpointed recently in their shock 0-1 defeat against lowly Cuf in a Portuguese first division clash. The result prompted a Lisbon newspaper to ask: "What's happened, old champions?"

Real Madrid, the only club to have appeared in the European Cup each year since its inception in 1955, are having an even tougher struggle to capture their old form. They suffered a bitter blow recently when they were whipped 5-0 by Atletico Bilbao—their heaviest defeat in 17 years.

In many respects the decline of the two clubs has followed a similar pattern. In each case the trouble seems to have stemmed from their reliance on outdated methods. Too late they have awoken to find their tactics and techniques overtaken by fresh ideas.

Coolness

Experts claim Benfica have lost their old speed and the coolness which illustrated their supreme self-confidence. Time is wasted with intricate passing. The build-up is slow and ponderous, the final thrust at goal indecisive.

Sportswriters have said only the individual brilliance of players like Eusebio have kept Benfica among the élite of Portuguese and European clubs.

Real Madrid's slide follows a period of absolute domination in Spanish soccer, which brought them 12 league championships and six European Cup victories in the last 16 seasons. They were knocked out of this term's European Cup by Standard Liege, of Belgium, and their chances of taking the league diminish with each game they play.

Glimpses

Their attack, spearheaded by close-season signing Fleitas, sometimes shows glimpses of the old flair. But Real have been let down by a shaky defence, having conceded 27 goals in 21 league matches.

The need for new training methods in Spanish football has been made patent by the success of the two front-runners in the league—Atletico Bilbao and Atletico Madrid. Both have imported managers—Madrid play under Frenchman Marcel Domingo and Bilbao under Ronnie Allen of England. Barcelona are now guided by the English duo of Vic Buckingham and Ted Drake.

Portuguese clubs are also looking abroad for new managers. FC Porto recently signed Tommy Docherty and Benfica, after sacking Otto Gloria, made unsuccessful overtures towards Sir Alf Ramsey.

Benfica director Francisco Calado summed up his club's dilemma: "We need a wind of change. We want to move away from a South American type of over-intricate football to the more incisive type played in Britain and Germany."

Neither Portugal nor Spain qualified for the finals of the World Cup in Mexico next June, although Spain caused a surprise recently in beating West Germany 2-0.

West German trainer Helmut Schoen said: "It is a pity Spain will not be in Mexico. Spain have an extraordinary team. The first goal was authentically Latin carried out with cunning and preparation."

Ladislao Kubala, Spain's Hungarian-born trainer, said: "A team is not made overnight. If the public, the clubs and the press work together, between us a great task can be accomplished and we will not be missing from the World Cup finals in 1974."

The same could apply to Portugal.

Tommy Docherty, pictured with the President of Malaga, Sr. Rodriquez Lopez, in February this year. (A)

WORLD SOCCER SCANNER

World Cup Referees

THE list of referees chosen for the 1970 World Cup finals is as follows:

From finalist countries: Mexico—Diego de Leos, Arturo Yamasaki Maldonado, Abel Aguilar Elizalde. Belgium—Vital Loraux. West Germany—Kurt Tschenscher. Italy—Atonio Sbardella. England—Jack Taylor. Uruguay—Ramon Barreto Ruiz. Brazil—Airton Vieira de Morais. Rumania—Andrei Radelescu. Israel—Abraham Klein. USSR—Tofik Bakhramov.

From non-finalist countries: Scotland—Bob Davidson. Switzerland — Rudolf Scheurer. France—Roger Machin. Spain—Jose Maria Ortiz de Mendibil. Holland—Laurens van Ravens. Yugoslavia—Drago Horvat. East Germany—Rudi Glöckner. Hungary—Gyula Emberger. Chile — Rafael Hormazabbal. Argentine—Angel Norberto Coerezza. Colombia—Guillermo Velasquez. UAR—Aly Hussein Kandil. Ethiopia—Seyoum Tarekegn. USA—Keith Dunstan. Austria—Ferdinand Marschall. Japan—Yoshiyuki Maruyama. Portugal—Antonio Saldanha Ribeiro.

Substitutes: Sweden—Einar Johan Bostrom. Wales—Ioreerth Price Jones. Czechoslovakia — Bohumil Smejkal. Bulgaria — Todor Betchirov.

* * *

In the countries where non-amateur or professional football is played, the amateurs are in a rather difficult position.

As UEFA considers it one of its main tasks to promote football on all levels, it is organising every four years a competition for amateur representative teams.

Twelve nations have entered the present, second, competition. Four groups of three teams each were formed, whereby each team had to play home and away against the other teams in its group.

Scotland, Wales and the Netherlands are in group one; Yugoslavia, West Germany and Austria in group two; Spain, England and France in group three; Greece, Italy and Malta in group four.

The winners of groups two and three are already known. They are Yugoslavia and Spain. It will yet have to be decided whether a final competition among the four group winners will be staged after the completion of group matches in April, as was the case in the first competition, or whether the semi-final matches will be played each in one of the countries concerned, to be determined by drawing lots.

STADIA FOR 1974 TOURNEY

Special Report

SO far the Organising Committee of the 1974 World Cup tournament, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hermann Neuberger from Saarbrucken, has chosen the following six cities with their respective stadia as match venues: Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart.

DORTMUND: In the immediate vicinity of the "Rote Erde" arena a "twin-stadium" solely for football is being built. It will hold 60,000 spectators (30,000 seated and 30,000 standing) and will be roofed completely, thus providing protection from rain to the spectators.

DUSSELDORF: The "Rhein Stadium" will be enlarged and improved. Work has already begun on the first phase of construction. The stadium when completed will hold 70,000 spectators split up as follows: 34,500 seated (28,000 under cover); 35,500 standing (5,500 under cover).

GELSENKIRCHEN: A new stadium is being built on the "Berger Feld" with a spectator capacity of 68,600. The first spadeful of earth was dug on August 30, 1969. There will be 35,700 seats (22,600 under cover).

HAMBURG: The Volkspark Stadium will be enlarged and improved with concentration on the roofing of the stands opposite the grandstands to form a South stand which, like the former, will consist of two floors. The spectator capacity will not be increased very much (about 70,000) but a larger proportion (over 20,000) will be under cover.

MUNICH: After the Olympic Games in 1972 the stands opposite the main-stand will be roofed, thus providing the Olympic Stadium with 64,000 seats under cover or, considering the overall capacity of the stadium, a proportion of 47,000 covered seats to 33,000 standing room (capacity 80,000) would be particularly favourable.

STUTTGART: The Neckar Stadium will be improved by the construction of a roof over the stand opposite the main-stand. The whole capacity of the stadium will then be for 66,000 spectators with approximately 20,000 covered seats and 15,000 uncovered.

The Organising Committee has granted a further extension of time to the city authorities of Berlin, Hannover, Cologne and Frankfurt to enable them to complete their plans right down to the last detail. Nuremburg and Ludwigshafen also received an extension of time to present their candidatures.

BERLIN: The modernisation and partial roofing of the Olympia Stadium is intended. A competition is now taking place in this respect and when it is terminated a decision will be made as to the most practical method of construction.

HANNOVER: The "Niedersachsen" Stadium will be enlarged and improved. This will consist mainly of the building of a roof over the stands opposite the main-stand ensuring protected seating and standing room. The first phase of planning provides for a further 10,000 seats under cover and standing room for 30,000 spectators also under cover. The World Cup Organising Committee has in this connection suggested that the number of seats under cover be considerably increased.

FRANKFURT: Enlargement and improvement of the "Wald" Stadium and the construction of a roof all round the circumference of the stands has been planned and agreed upon. This will make the subsequent spectator capacity 65,000—seats for 33,800 (26,000 under cover) and standing room for 32,700 (12,000 under cover).

COLOGNE: It is intended to renovate the "Mungersdorfer" Stadium with the object of increasing the spectator capacity to 70,000, the largest part of which will be protected by a complete roofing of the stands.

As things stand at the moment the DFB 1974 Organising Committee thinks that it will most likely be in a position to propose at least ten stadia to FIFA where the type of construction and comfort offered to the spectator comply with the prerequisites of an event like the World Cup.

HUNGARY FACES 'REVOLT'

Special Report From Budapest

HUNGARY, known as the 'Magical Magyars' when they dominated the football world in the 1950s, have undergone a major upheaval following a disastrous decline into soccer's second division.

The entire Football Federation Board and national team manager Karoly Soos resigned after Hungary's elimination from the 1970 World Cup by Czechoslovakia in a qualifying play-off match last December.

This was the first time Hungary has failed to qualify for the World Cup finals and their current malaise has been underlined by the elimination of all their teams from the three major European club competitions.

Now the Hungarians look to two men to revive their flagging football fortunes—Dr. Andras Terpitko, newly-appointed President of the Hungarian Football Federation, and new national team manager, Jozsef Hoffer.

As Hungary's competitive success has declined, so have attendances. The giant Nepstadion in Budapest, scene of Hungary's famous 7-1 victory over England in 1954, now pulls in an annual aggregate of 470,000 fans compared with a peak of two million.

Hungary remains a great natural breeding ground for soccer talent, but ball-playing skills cannot compensate for a basic lack of fitness. Hungarian teams have yet to learn this lesson, despite disastrous defeats against teams of inferior technique.

This weakness was dramatically exposed when Hungary lost to the part-timers of Denmark in a World Cup qualifying round match in Copenhagen, and again when Ujpest Dozsa crashed to Newcastle United in last season's Fairs Cup final.

In both matches the Hungarians looked clearly superior but were run off their feet by fitter opponents.

To overcome this basic defect in Hungarian football, the new top officials are giving priority to improving fitness, offering bigger incentives for victory and strengthening links between club and national teams.

Relations between the clubs and the national body will be a major factor in future plans. The clubs belong to the National Council for Physical Education and Sport and the Football Federation is only responsible for arranging league games.

This dual control has made it difficult for national team managers to obtain co-operation with the clubs and the only special arrangement has been the postponement of league games before and after an international match.

Team manager Hoffer said the old methods would be swept away and that a special training camp would be set up. He will also visit each of the 16 first division clubs and hopes for assistance not only from club coaches but also from trades unions, industrial trusts, the Army and Ministries who largely finance the clubs.

Another big problem to be tackled concerns illegal transfers, a controversial issue in a sport which is supposed to be non-professional.

Suspension

Although players are paid wages and bonuses, they are encouraged to pursue other trades or professions outside the sport. But this system breaks down when it comes to star players and four internationals are currently serving one-year suspensions for leaving their clubs illegally.

Tough discipline is expected on fun-seeking players who spend their time driving around in cars and visiting coffee bars. Such players will be axed from the national pool, which would prove costly as the Federation is considering special bonus payments to club coaches whose players are regulars in the international team.

The task facing the new officials is formidable, but Hungary has too much soccer talent to remain on the sidelines for long.

Defender Marzolini, veteran of two World Cups, was picked for the "new" Argentina national team again. (EW)

LONG HAIR OUT . . . NEW IMAGE!

ERIC WEIL in Argentina

NO long hair or sideboards allowed for international players to improve Argentina's image, was the order from Argentine FA interventor, Dr. Oneto Gaona, to new national team coach, Juan José Pizzuti (who took Racing Club to the 1967 "world championship") when 30 players to form a permanent senior national squad were picked. Let's hope they also play cleaner soccer and are more successful than the last lot who suffered the humiliation of being eliminated by Peru and Bolivia from the World Cup in last August's preliminary games.

Actually the squad includes 10 of the 19 players who did duty in these World Cup games, but the FA has high hopes that Pizzuti will do for the national team what he did for Racing, popularly known as "José's team" and take them to a world title.

The chosen 30 are:

Goal: Cejas, Santoro, Marin. Backs: Touriño, Suñe, Perfumo, Rogel, Recio, Cantú, Marzolini, Dominichi, Malbernat. Halves: Rendo, Madurga, Brindisi, Pastoriza, Zóttola. Forwards: Marcos, Gonzalez, Conigliaro, Willington, Onega (D.), Yazalde, Fischer, Veglio, Bianchi, Giribet, Mas, Ayala, Verón.

Pizzuti has the power to refuse their release for club games. Boca Juniors and River Plate, each with four players in the squad, have already been told that they will not be able to have them for their First Round "Libertadores" Cup (South American Championship) games against the Bolivian champions and vice-champions.

CONSISTENT

Boca will be without three of their four-men famed rearguard (leaving only Peruvian, Melendez) and half-back Madurga who has been so important to the team, while River Plate will miss their only two consistently good forwards, Mas and Onega. The two Argentine teams should be strong enough to beat their Bolivian rivals anyway, but it is being asked why this attitude is being taken after elimination from the World Cup, with three years to go before the next eliminating games and only friendly games versus Brazil and Uruguay scheduled in the near future.

Anyway, it shows the FA's determination to put the national team above all else—as was so often said but never done—and avoid any recurrence of elimination from the World Cup in preliminary games. Yet Argentina is surely the only country out of the World Cup to put country before club.

SOCCER ON HOLIDAY

Local soccer went to the beaches again this summer. While only Quilmes went on a lengthy Central American tour and River Plate and San Lorenzo took part in the Montevideo Cup international tournament, many other clubs went to seaside resorts along the Atlantic coast to tune up after their all too short holidays.

Estudiantes de La Plata, the South American club champions, had a deserved longer rest this year and are training on the beach without playing even friendly games, while Independiente, Racing, Velez Sarsfield, Boca Juniors and Mexican club, Necaxa, took part in the second Mar del Plata Cup tournament organised by Boca Juniors at this popular seaside resort.

Independiente and Racing, the Avellaneda neighbours, tied for top place and will play off on a date to be fixed, but the tournament was again a flop from the sports and economic angle (although expenses were covered by TV fees).

The bad weather may have hit gates, but more to blame was the fact that the Argentine teams merely used this tournament to commence their training for the season and the only foreign opponents, Necaxa, finished bottom even though faced by half-fit teams.

Necaxa, fifth in the Mexico championship which had just finished, are a well-drilled, enthusiastic side playing a defensive 4-4-2. In this way they overcame many of their technical shortcomings, but they found it difficult to take chances in attack.

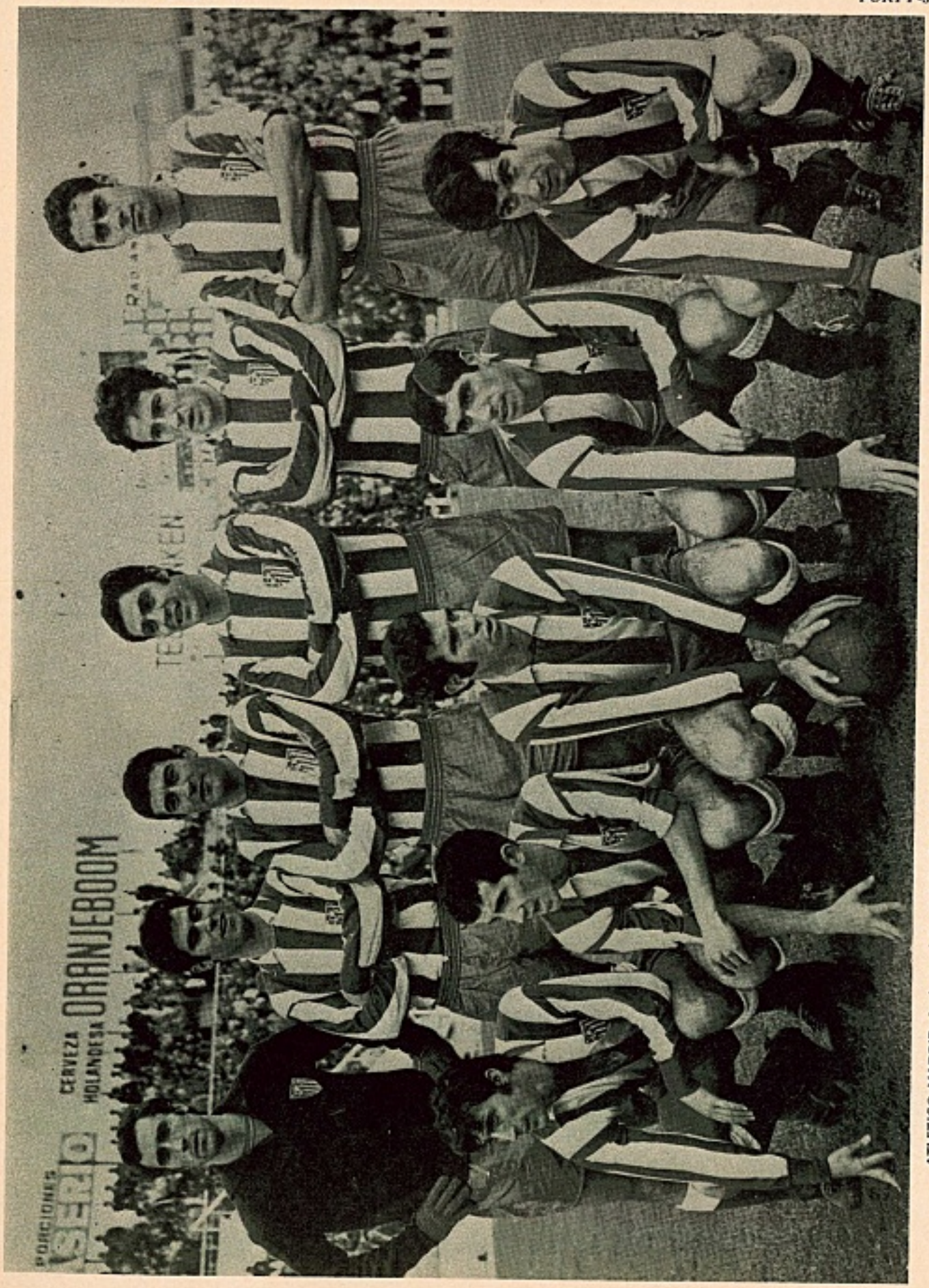
POOR MATCH

Independiente, back under coach, Manuel Giudice, who took them to South American Cup wins two years running, were the best of a poor lot. A dropped point versus Boca was their undoing. Tarabini scored their equaliser from a penalty three minutes from the end and with at least 30 seconds to go, Bernao scored a beautiful goal, but the referee blew the final whistle as the ball was on its way to the net. Independiente should have won the game.

National champions, Boca Juniors, showed how much they depended on their young half, Norberto Madurga. He had a poor match following a bout of 'flu) against Velez Sarsfield and his team lost 3-2. He didn't play in the 1-1 draw against Independiente and was badly missed. That match was the end of any hopes Boca had of winning their tournament again.

The Argentine fan showed that, even when on holiday and with nothing much to do, he will not watch half-fit teams playing in an aimless tournament.

Last month we published a team group photograph of Boca Juniors. The caption should have read: Standing left to right: Rogel, Melendez, Sanchez, Sune, Madurga, Marzolini. Kneeling: Ponce, Savoy, Rojas, Medina, Pena. (EW)



ATLETICO MADRID: back row left to right: Rodri, Melo, Iglesias, Quique, Salcedo, Eusebio. Front row left to right: Ufarte, Irureta, Luis, Alberto, Garate. (NC)

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